

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, February 6, 1992

Published Since 1877

## Shorrosh confronts Islam, "takes cues from Bible"

By Stan Guthrie

WHEATON, Ill. (BP) — Dale Carnegie, late author of *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, might disapprove of Anis Shorrosh.

Shorrosh, a stocky, dark-haired grandfather who usually wears a broad smile, won few friends in South Africa among the Muslims he was trying to reach for Christ two summers ago. In Cape Town, one kicked him in the ribs. Another came at him with a knife but instead stabbed a shielding friend (who was not seriously injured), dousing the evangelist's Arabian clothing with blood. While Shorrosh was making a hasty exit by automobile, someone else smashed one of the windows with a rock.

Discussing the Cape Town attack later, a Muslim leader said Shorrosh, a member of Cottage Hill Church in Mobile, Ala., had "asked for it."

On the contrary, Shorrosh says, the Muslims, and in particular one Sheikh Ahmed Deedat of Durban, have been asking for a challenge for decades. Deedat, born in India but a resident of Durban, is a self-proclaimed Muslim scholar who has traveled all over the world lecturing against the intellectual foundations of Christianity for more than 40 years.

Shorrosh, born to Christian parents in Nazareth 58 years ago, has been a

globe-trotting evangelist since he left a Jerusalem pastorate in 1967. A graduate of Mississippi College, Shorrosh holds a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary, a doctor of ministry degree from Luther Rice Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Fla., and a doctor of philosophy from the American Institute of Ministry's Oxford Graduate School in Dayton, Tenn.

While Shorrosh, who has been called another Salman Rushdie, concedes he has won few Muslim friends through the debates, he contends they have been influencing people.

"I felt two things could be done," Shorrosh said. "First, it is an outreach of evangelism to Muslims who will not come to a revival.

"They will not come to a church but they will come to a debate. If you get the tapes, you will notice that I present the gospel clearly.

"Second, it is an effort on my part to stop the spread of Islam, which has used debate to defeat the Christians — by not telling the whole truth and by attacking us and by keeping us on the defensive all the time. This is why they got upset, for this is the first time they were put on the defensive."

Robert Douglas, director of the

Zwemer Institute of Muslim Studies in Altadena, Calif., expressed similar reservations, although he said debates could work "in the right context."

"I guess my feeling is that probably Anis's approach is a much more confrontational approach than most of us at Zwemer would feel comfortable with," Douglas said. "One needs to strongly stress the positives of Christianity without attacking the 'sacred cows' of Islam, where I don't think you gain anything."

Dale Carnegie might not approve, but Shorrosh says he is taking his cues from a more authoritative source — the Bible.

"We have tried the dialogue system for so long," Shorrosh said.

"We've tried friendship evangelism and talking with them sweetly, and one comes here, one comes there. We have not used the confrontational system. But Paul, you see, dealt with debates. He confronted the cults and religions of the ancient world. At Athens, he tried to explain things. Jesus used that system, and so did Stephen and others."

This article first appeared in PULSE, semi-monthly newsletter published by Evangelical Mission Information Service, Wheaton, Ill.



**PASTORS START CHURCHES TO WELCOME ALL RACES** — Mission pastors Steve Crampton, left, and Doug Tipps wanted to start congregations that would welcome people of all races and economic backgrounds. With the help of sponsoring Brentwood Church in Houston, Tex., two missions, Heart of Houston and Bissonnet Church, now offer racially mixed congregations places of worship. Southern Baptist churches throughout the nation will celebrate Race Relations Sunday Feb. 9. (Photo by Jim Wright)

## Shampoo lets Kazakhstan elderly know someone cares

By Beth Sammons

ALMA-ATA, Kazakhstan (BP) — The white-haired man, dressed in a graying officer's uniform proudly displaying Soviet medals, shuffled in to the hallway.

Southern Baptist volunteer Ed Mason handed him a bottle of shampoo. Through an interpreter, Mason explained the gift was from "Christians in America."

The tarnished Russian soldier began to weep. The hallway in the Home for the Aged grew silent as Southern Baptist workers, hospital personnel, and translators watched tears stream down the old man's face.

Later, when the last of patients on the hall had received their gifts, the volunteers met the soldier again. This

time his tears were overtaken by bursts of excitement.

"Americans! Hurrah!" he shouted. "Americans and Russians are friends! Hurrah! Hurrah!"

Meanwhile in Zaisan, few seemed to notice the biting cold wind as Kazakhs and Americans stood side by side in ankle-deep snow.

They watched the Kazakh and American flags being raised together over the first-ever Kazakh-American Friendship Center, built in the Kazakh city of Zaisan, a city of 39,000 people.

"Do you realize a few years ago how impossible a dream this would have been?" asked Mason, a volunteer from Tallahassee, Fla., who directs

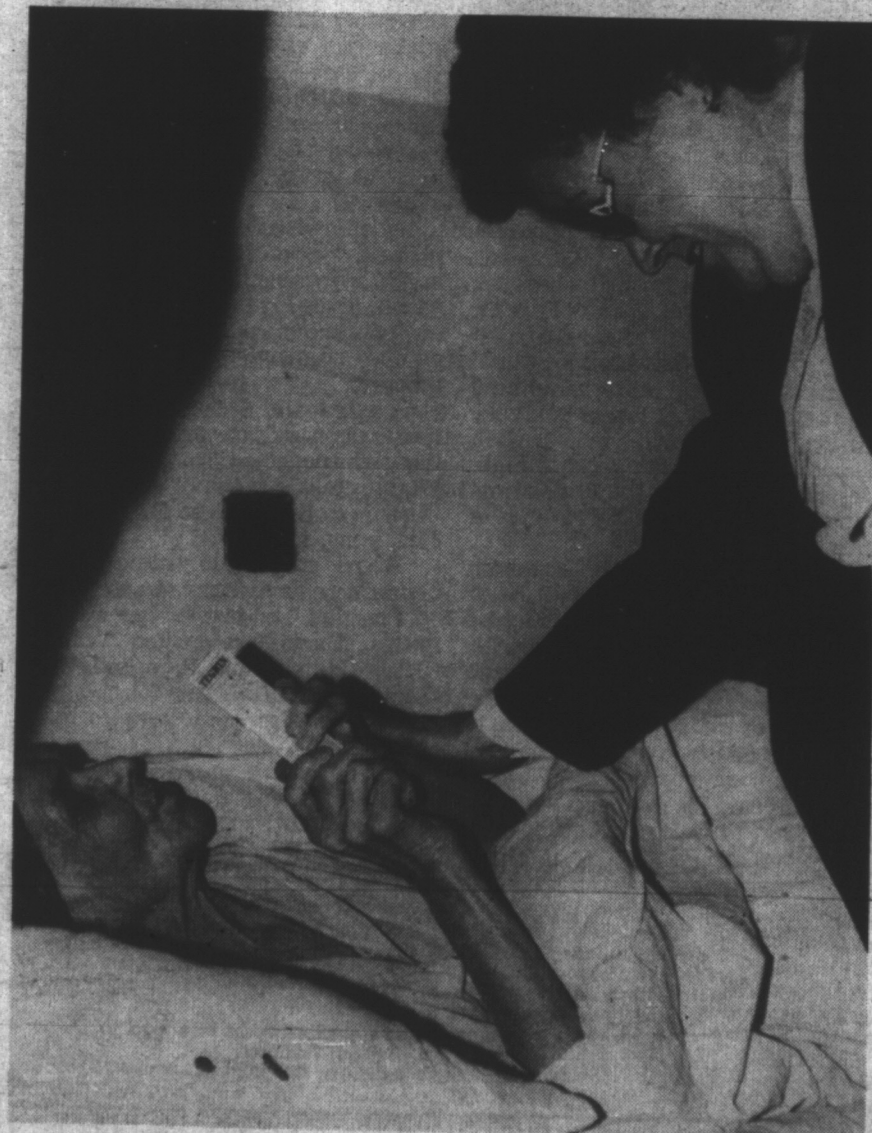
humanitarian aid efforts in Kazakhstan.

"The friendship house is two cultures coming together and the school is those two cultures cooperating to educate people," volunteer Steve James said. "Our purpose is not to open an American school but a Kazakh-American school. We have many important things to teach one another. One of the most important comes in the form of a saying from our Scriptures. The first commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind. The second is to love our neighbor as ourselves."

The friendships already forged between Americans and Kazakhs impresses Southern Baptist workers.

"The people of Zaisan have been willing and gracious to open its window to us — to give us a glimpse of Kazakh language and culture and people," James said. "I pray we will not only catch a glimpse but that we will begin to look one another in the face as friends."

Sammons, a Southern Baptist, works with the Central Asia Foundation in Kazakhstan.



**SOMEONE CARES** — Southern Baptist medical volunteer Kitty Byrd gives a package of shampoo to an elderly woman at the Home for the Aged in Alma-Ata, capital of the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan. Volunteers had distributed Southern Baptist medical and personal articles to 15 hospitals around Kazakhstan in desperate need of supplies. When they had several boxes of medicated shampoo, bleach, room freshener, and skin lotion left over, someone suggested the Home for the Aged. The residents responded with tears and joy. "It's experiences like this one that make your heart just puff up. This is what it's all about," volunteer Ed Mason said. "These people have been forgotten by society. All they need is someone to show them they care." According to Mason, the humanitarian aid has opened doors for a Christian message in areas formerly closed to the gospel. (BP photo by Beth Sammons)



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## In the same boat

The former governor, Ray Mabus, made a statement that ought to set us thinking. He said all Mississippians are in a boat. Some are rowing, some riding, and some may be trying to cut a hole in the boat. We only go forward together and of course, if the boat sinks, all will be affected.

The early people in Mississippi were the Choctaws, the Chickasaws, the Natchez, Biloxi, and other Indians. Then came the settlers from the eastern seaboard who really came from Scotland, Ireland, Germany, and other European nations. This was followed by the Africans (they were forced to come), the Chinese, Koreans, Vietnamese, Mexicans, and other scattered ethnic groups. Today we have a host of ethnics in the boat.

Each Sunday, nationwide, 200 Baptist ethnic groups worship in 101 languages. There are now over 6,000 SBC language-culture congregations with 500,000 members. God is moving among ethnic Americans and many productive churches are organized each year.

In the Magnolia State, there are 23 black congregations and 12 Choctaw

churches in our convention. In addition, there are ministries in Greenville, Greenwood, Jackson, and Cleveland for Chinese; Korean missions are meeting in Biloxi, Starkville, Jackson, and Hattiesburg; and Vietnamese and Filipino groups in Biloxi. Spanish-speaking missions are in Vardaman, Jackson, Brandon, and Gulfport. Other churches and communities are becoming aware of opportunities with ethnic peoples and beginning ministries among them.

In his book *Not Our Kind of Folks*, Dick Brogan relates the story of a king who did a very strange thing. He took all the windows out of his palace and replaced them with mirrors. Then he could sit at his royal banquet table, dressed in regal robes, assuming the rest of the world looked like he looked and had the same needs he had. The tragedy of this story was, says Brogan, "Outside those mirrors were people who were hungry and needed companionship." The poor king lived to himself, for himself, and died by himself. Christ did the opposite. He took out the mirrors of life and replaced them with windows.

Pride, prejudice, and discrimination based on race, gender, or nationality must be confronted before basic human rights can be enjoyed in the boat. Religious prejudice can be just as crippling. The way we treat Catholics, Jews, Muslims, or any religion may be more of a test for our religion than theirs. James the apostle scorches economic prejudice, saying if a rich man comes into your church and you give him the best seat and then say to the poor man, "You stand there, . . . have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts" (James 2:4). Perhaps the worst spin off of all this is what it teaches our children.

Prejudice is prejudging and is usually based upon inadequate knowledge. Your mind is made up, and no amount of knowledge is apt to change it. It has been called the vampire of the mind, robbing you of the ability to accept others. The apostle John put it in the positive, "My little children let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18).

## 'Come now, let us reason together'

Isaiah 1:18

The browning of America is well under way.

Demographic studies show that 40% of elementary and secondary school children in New York State are members of an ethnic minority. Fifty-one percent of the school children in California trace their heritage to African, Asian, or Hispanic roots. In one California city, more people with the last name of Nguyen are listed in the telephone book than people with the name Jones. Today, one in four Americans is nonwhite.

Early in the 21st century, America will be far less white. A child born in 1992 will grow up in a nation landscaped with all the varieties of ethnic and racial groups within God's human garden.

What will be our national response to these surging demographic trends?

One possible answer is that the present resurgence of racism will intensify. Racial and ethnic supremacy groups will multiply. Neighborhood walls will go up. Parents will flee with their school-age children into cultural

ghettoes. Churches will remain bastions of one racial group or another.

A second possible answer is that ethnic and racial groups will, for the most part, peacefully coexist with occasional outbursts of hostility.

A third possibility is that the nation will take to heart the creed on its currency. The Latin phrase, *E Pluribus Unum*, "one formed from many," is an uplifting vision.

Christians can play a vital role in achieving the third response. We confess that God is our Creator (Gen. 1), that Christ has broken down the wall of hostility that divides us (Eph. 2:13-16), that the gospel is for all nations (Matt. 28:19-20), that God shows no partiality (Acts 10:34-35), and that the early church was composed of a host of ethnic and racial groups (Acts 2). Our faith provides the framework for interracial, interethnic, and intercultural interaction.

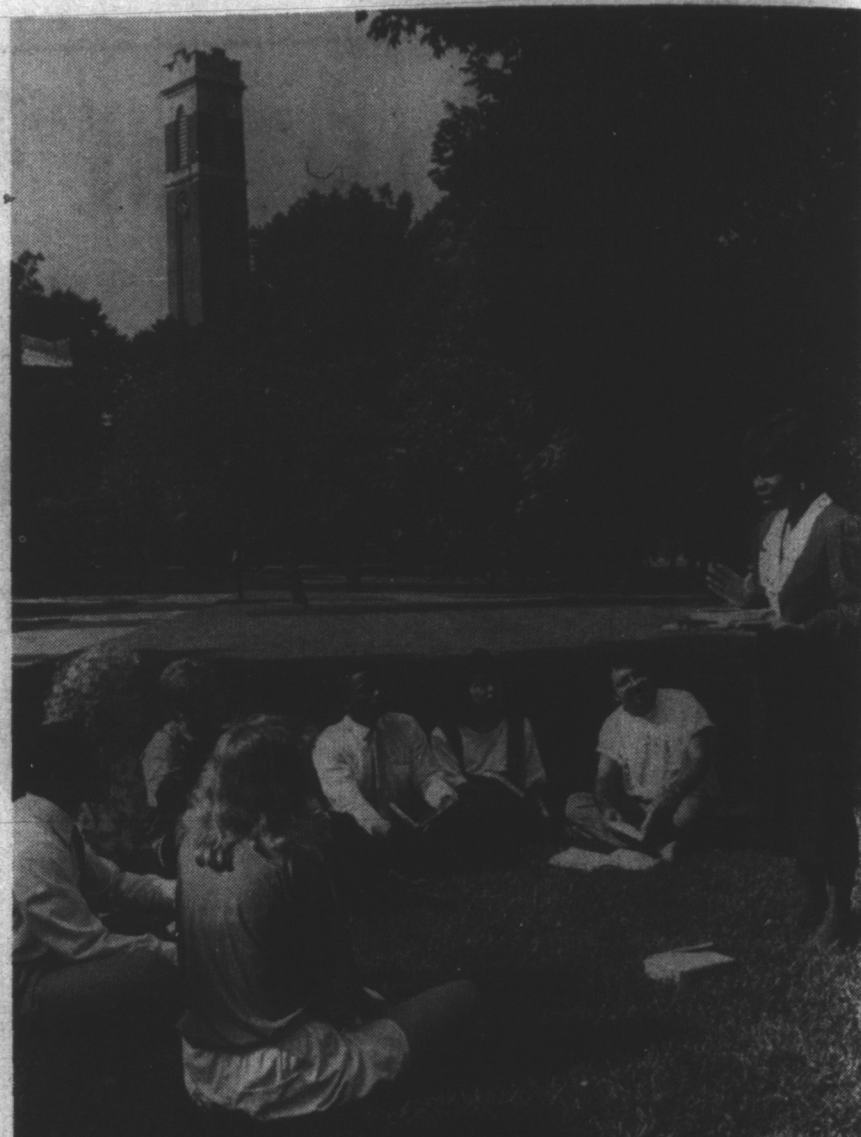
Isaiah 1:18 brings into sharp focus what we need to do to achieve such an ambitious goal. Isaiah offers us a two-part strategy. First, we must

"come . . . together." We need to begin meeting together in forums, at churches and on playgrounds. Association must replace isolation.

Second, we must "reason together." The word reason means to correct one another. Indeed, we Christians, from different heritages and experiences, must sit down with one another and thoroughly discuss our differences. Mutual instruction can uncover misunderstandings, shatter prejudice, expose unwarranted fears, and lead to broad avenues of agreement. Dialogue is always better than either monologue or separation within the body of Christ.

On Race Relations Sunday 1992, view Isaiah 1:18 as a strategy to achieve a community formed from many. Let us not just worship together. Let us come together in Christ and talk about our fears and hopes. Let us learn from, and about, each other. Let us model the love of Christ in our love for each other.

This article was prepared by Christian Life Commission, SBC.



Observe Race Relations Sunday  
February 9, 1992

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission  
of the Southern Baptist Convention

## Church takes low-key way to reach Jewish neighbors

By Sharon Copeland

ST. LOUIS (BP) — Parkway Church, located in a western suburb of St. Louis with a large Jewish population, struggled for years with a desire to reach Jewish neighbors with a Christian witness.

But neither the staff nor the members knew the best way to go about it, according to minister of education Earl Haskins.

"About a year ago, a man approached us who is in charge of the Friends of Israel organization," Haskins recounted. "His name is Andy Ferrier. He came by and started sharing a vision . . . He was curious if we would be interested in beginning something like that. Friends of Israel is a very low-key approach to Jewish evangelism. We didn't want to high-pressure people, but build relationships. And that's what the Friends of Israel is all about."

Friends of Israel meets each month in the church's fellowship hall. With the setting and refreshments such as bagels, cream cheese, and soft drinks, "the atmosphere is more conducive to the approach we want," Haskins explained. "It's more non-threatening to the Jewish folks who come in than going into our sanctuary."

Haskins said the meetings got off to a slow start in June with only 10 or 15

people attending, most of them Parkway members. But the December meeting attracted about 70 adults and children, most of them Jewish, for a Hanukkah party. Almost 90 attended the night a survivor of the Holocaust and several Israeli wars told how he found the Messiah.

"First, we try to educate Christians in how to be a more effective witness to their Jewish friends," Ferrier explained. "Secondly, we're trying to do hands-on evangelism of the Jewish people. Since Friends of Israel started in June, we've had unsaved Jewish people coming to almost every meeting."

As a Jew and Christian both, Ferrier understands the problems facing those who become Christian believers. "Rabbis tell Jews that if they become Christians they are no longer Jews. That's just not true."

"We're called completed Jews because we have found the Messiah." "I'm glad God opened our eyes up to this," Haskins remarked. "As gentiles we didn't know the mind-set of the Jewish faith. It was tough for us trying to design something to meet their needs."

Copeland is a correspondent for WORD AND WAY, newjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

## Commitment is key to prison ministry

By Steve Barber

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Larry Creasman knows that organization and commitment are the keys to reaching persons through ministry to prison inmates, and he has the numbers to prove it.

As a result of the most recent revival at Memphis' Shelby County Correctional Center, 261 inmates accepted Christ as Savior and hundreds

more came forward in rededication.

Creasman, a retired U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee from Hernando, Miss., is a member of the Brotherhood Commission's National Fellowship of Baptists in Missions through the Shelby Baptist Criminal Justice Fellowship.

Working under the leadership of the Shelby Baptist Association,

Creasman and his associates in the fellowship help perform an ongoing ministry to more than 9,000 inmates in city, county, state, and federal jails throughout the Memphis area, offering twice-weekly worship services, counseling, and special holiday programs.

Barber writes for Brotherhood Commission.

## The Baptist Record

VOLUME 116

(ISSN-0005-5778)

NUMBER 1

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor . . . . . Guy Henderson  
Associate Editor . . . . . Anne McWilliams  
Advertising Manager . . . . . Evelyn Keyes  
Editorial Associate . . . . . Florence Larrimore  
Circulation Manager . . . . . Renee Walley  
Bookkeeper . . . . . Betty Anne Bailey  
Proofreader/Secretary . . . . . Shannon Simpson  
Editor Emeritus . . . . . Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Deborah Brunt, Corinth; Susan Kinton, Walnut Grove; Owen Lusk, Jackson; Randy Turner, Natchez, vice-chairman; Tommy Tutor, Clarksdale, chairman; ex-officio, Evelyn Keyes, secretary, Jackson.  
Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.  
Send news, communications, and address changes to  
The Editor, Baptist Record  
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205



## MBREA to hold 46th annual convention



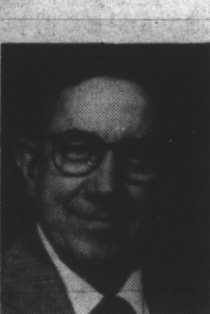
C. Davis



Buchanan



Gambrell



R. Davis

Lowry

The Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association will hold its 46th annual convention for Christian educators, pastors, and others interested in learning basic principles of church growth, Feb. 20-22, in Biloxi. The theme is "Church Growth in Mississippi."

## Lewis Drummond announces retirement from S'eastern

By Herb Hollinger

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Southeastern Seminary President Lewis A. Drummond announced his retirement, effective June 30, following a four-hour, closed meeting of the seminary trustees' executive committee at the Wake Forest, N.C., campus Jan. 30.

Drummond, 65, made his announcement after the closed session but trustees refused to disclose terms of his retirement package until the full 30-member trustee board, in a regular meeting, votes on it Mar. 10-11. The announcement came amid concern about a worsening financial condition and the placing of the school on probation by the Southern Association of

Colleges and Schools last December. Drummond refused to divulge any retirement plans but Beeson School of Divinity at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., has indicated interest in Drummond teaching at the school.

In his prepared statement, given to the press following the special called executive committee meeting, Drummond acknowledged the seminary "has experienced difficult days and quite climactic change during these past four years (during his presidency)."

The search for a new president began immediately with the 12-member executive committee. (See **DRUMMOND** on page 7)

## Agencies will share in proposed budget decreases

By Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE (BP) — Following a Southern Baptist Convention policy of setting a budget on a previous year's receipts, all SBC agencies and institutions will share equally a slight decrease in the proposed 1992-93 Cooperative Program allocation budget.

The program and budget subcommittee of the SBC Executive Committee needed only about two hours of deliberation Jan. 23 in Nashville to propose a \$140,200,395 1992-93 CP budget. The proposed budget, which

must be approved by the Executive Committee in its Feb. 17-19 meeting and then submitted to the SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis in June, follows a policy of budgeting based on receipts of the last fiscal year of record (1990-91).

Faced with a \$509,887 shortage from the present year (1991-92) budget total of \$140,710,282, the 27-member subcommittee decided the reduction in the 1992-93 budget — 0.362% — would

(See **AGENCIES** on page 9)

The Second Front Page

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, February 6, 1992

Published Since 1877

## Great preaching sparks Evangelism Conference

By Guy Henderson

Pastors, staff members, and lay people were inspired by the State Evangelism Conference in Hattiesburg, Jan. 27-28. J. Garland McKee, evangelism director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and consultant James Fancher conducted a program of witness training, revival preaching, and developing an evangelism strategy.

Powerful preaching was the hallmark of the annual meeting. Evangelist Junior Hill of Hartselle, Ala., led off the conference speaking on Psalm 37. The words of Philip Brooks, "In every pew there is a broken heart," were quoted. Hill said, "We are to refrain from fretting. Watch for things that just 'burn me up.' It will corrupt your spirit and is contagious to the saints." Hill declared that the wants are often dictated by the flesh and are carnal, while desires are the inner longing of the heart. "A generation which has no qualms about killing babies will eventually kill the old and unproductive people," said Hill.

Perry Sanders of First, Lafayette, La., spoke on "Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out," pointing out that this message was in an address to the people of God. "It is doubly enforced," said Sanders. "Be surely sure your sins will find you out. It's a revival of accountability. Sin hurt Moses, Samson, and David. It will result in lost joy, lost power, and lost prayer support."

The theme of the conference, "Ye

Shall be My Witnesses," was addressed by Richard Jackson of North Phoenix Church in Arizona. He spoke of rejoicing over the lost being saved as portrayed in Luke 15. Everyone except the elder brother is rejoicing when the story ends. "The sins of

disposition can be the worst kind of carnality. This kind of person never rejoices over lost souls. Self importance, self pity, and self righteousness are the causes of such carnality. Keep

(See **EVANGELISM** on page 4)



Junior Hill and J. Garland McKee, help Richard Jackson make a point during a sermon at the Evangelism Conference. Jackson spoke of a minister working on the same level as others so as to have help available in case of reversals. McKee reported that 156 persons turned in to him decision cards reporting that they would promise to provide a verbal witness for Christ on a regular basis for the rest of their lives.

## 1,200 churches under Prayer Alert

By Terri Lackey

The prayer alert is an organized effort coordinated by the Discipleship Training Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board. It emerged from a call by SBC President Morris Chapman for Southern Baptist churches to become more involved in the nation's spiritual well-being.

Church members pray during the hour assigned them, said Mary Betts, prayer alert coordinator. Following their hour of prayer, the church "transfers the watch" or calls the church designated to pray through the next hour.

Betts expects to have a Watchmen National Prayer Alert membership roll of 2,500 churches by the end of February. With the need to have churches praying at every hour of the day and night, every church cannot have a so-called "convenient" time. Von Seeberg is also asking the churches on his "watch" to pray for his one-year-old congregation which is \$3,000 in debt.

Drake said he has no doubt prayer can take care of the practical as well

as the spiritual concerns of his church. "We have also seen dozens of marriages healed. Prayer really draws us together and makes the church a family," he added.

The three churches, as well as other members of the prayer network, offer during their hour each week a similar four-point prayer outlined in Watchmen National Prayer Alert guidelines.

"Each week," Drake said, "we pray to remove obstacles hindering revival and for the restoration of broken churches, families, and lives."

"We pray for a renewed commitment by God's people to spreading the gospel," Drake said, "and we ask the Lord for power to resist the devil."

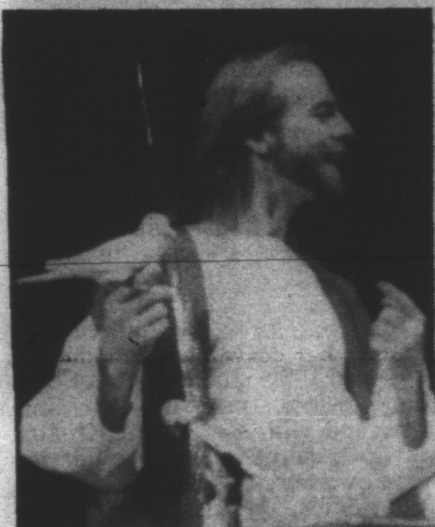
Churches interested in becoming participants in the prayer ministry should write to Watchmen National Prayer Alert, MSN 151, 127 Ninth Ave. N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, or call Mary Betts (615) 251-5037. Churches can fax their registration or prayer concerns to (615) 251-5058. An informational video tape and brochure are available.

Lackey writes for BSSB.

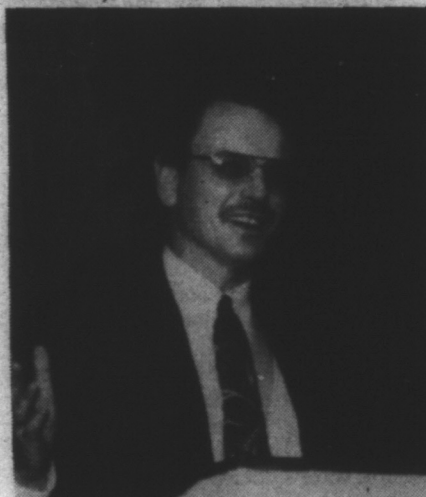




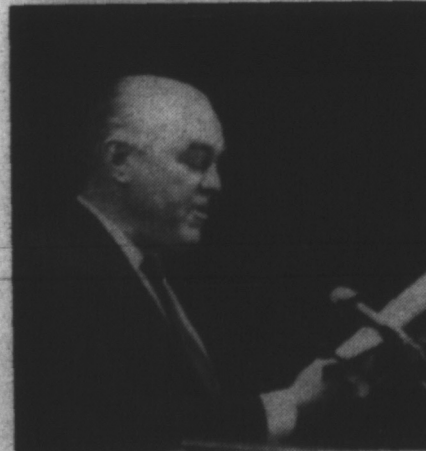
Jay and Karen McKay of Rusk, Tex., had help when they sang during the Evangelism Conference. The four in the middle are their daughters: Bonnie, 10; Annie, 8; Mollie, 4; and Nellie, 2. In the second picture, Mollie is trying to reason with Nellie to not sing while their father is doing his solo.



Troy Drollinger, a dramatist from Houston, Tex., portrays Jesus as he delivers the sermon known as the Sermon on the Mount. Drollinger also delivered from memory portions of Scripture from James and John. (Photos by Tim Nicholas)



Ondie Brum



Perry Sanders

## EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

From page 3

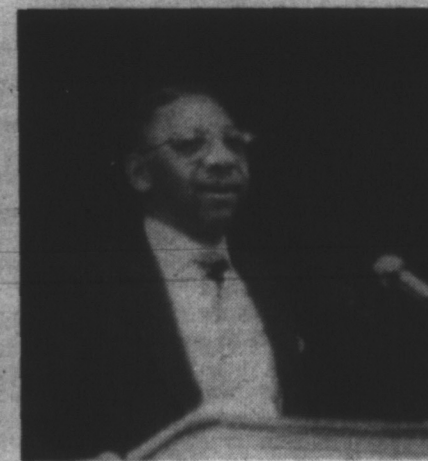
in mind your position, not your performance."

Troy Drollinger had a first century look as he quoted long sections of the words of Jesus and the apostle James. He used nothing but Scripture to drive home powerful points on attitude and service.

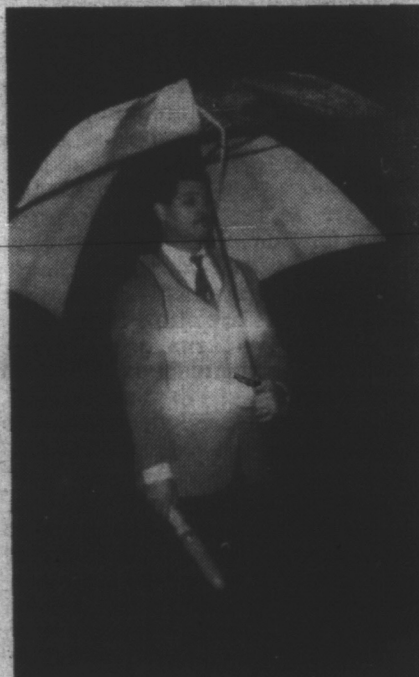
Perhaps the most dramatic time was when Ondie Brum gave his testimony. He declared himself to be the result of Nazi soldiers raping his mother when they invaded Poland. He was rejected by his mother. He saw his grandparents shipped to Siberia. After he arrived in America, he started using drugs "to kill the pain." Finally he went into a life of crime and at age 18 was sentenced 5 to 10 years in a Michigan prison. Through the Bible and witness of friends, he trusted Christ. He called his mother, but she still rejected him. God called him to preach and eventually his mother did come to hear him preach, and placed her arms around him "for the first time that I remember."

Garland McKee spoke on witnessing, and scores of people made commitments to a witnessing life style. "You always do what you give high priority to" so give your highest priority to witnessing, he said.

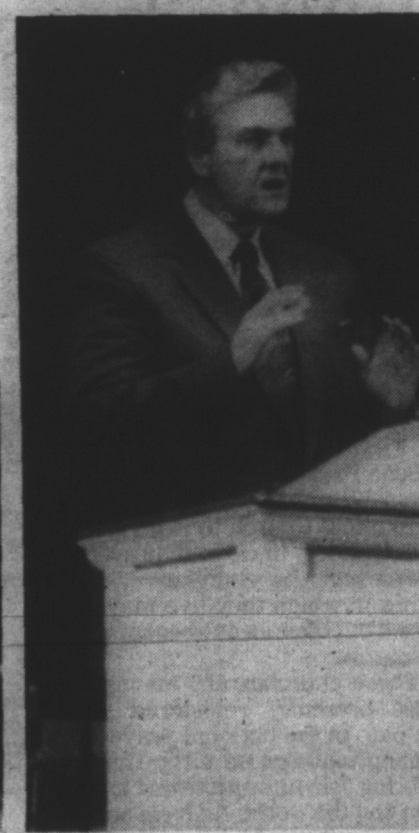
James Lightfoot, pastor, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Houston, Tex., spoke on the witnessing church. "When we stand before the Lord, he will ask us about our stewardship. Now how much, nor how many, but how faithful." He pointed out that the church must be geared up for service with the community in mind.



James Lightfoot



Jim Stewart, a member of Temple Baptist Church, helps to park cars in the rain during the Evangelism Conference which took place there last week. The miserable weather did not keep attendance down, however. An estimated 1,300 attended the annual meeting.



Junior Hill

## "By the way"

(Overheard at the Evangelism Conference)

"It took me four years to get a worker out of the Willing Workers class."

\*\*\*\*\*

"Nobody is a big shot at the cross. The ground is level there."

\*\*\*\*\*

"Can't speak in public? Put marbles in your mouth and speak for a while. Then take out one marble and speak, then another, etc. After you have lost all your marbles, you'll be a public speaker."

\*\*\*\*\*

Lady said, "I'll start praying for you today so you may as well give in."

\*\*\*\*\*

Dance in Scripture really means a "sacred liturgical movement."

\*\*\*\*\*

Ken Carter, Home Mission Board, reports "baptisms for the SBC have increased for the fourth year."

\*\*\*\*\*

"This church is dying slower than any church I ever pastored."

\*\*\*\*\*

"Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire at night."

## "Standing on the Promises"

### McKay draws music from crowd

Since the days of Ira Sankey, music has played a major role in evangelism. The state Evangelism Conference did nothing to diminish this emphasis.

John McKay, music evangelist of Rockport, Tex., drew singing from the crowd, ready or not. He began with a swift song of "I Get Carried Away When I Get Carried Away," and "I'll Be Having the Time of My Life When the Time of My Life is Over."

Reba Andrae, pianist, has played for John McKay for 31 years and was superb. She seldom looked at a sheet of music and kept all of us on key.

Jay McKay and family sang several times to the delight of the packed wor-

ship center. The children sang "What Makes Popcorn Pop?" or "Black Cows Giving White and Yellow Butter," and "We Believe, We Shall Receive."

The choir and orchestra of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, highlighted the Monday evening service under the direction of Paul Koonce. Tuesday began with Myrna Loy Hedgepeth singing "We Are Standing on Holy Ground."

Various other music evangelists — Ronnie Cottingham, the Barrows Family of Pascagoula, Boyd Tweedy, Doug Scotts, Hubert Greer, R. L. and Beth Sigrest, and Brad and Tammy Jones — blessed the enthusiastic crowd with messages in song.

## William Carey receives \$100,000 foundation grant

William Carey College has received a \$100,000 grant from The Commonwealth Fund to fund a three-year Career Beginnings program. Career Beginnings is part of Project 95, a major campaign developed by Ray Cleere, Commissioner of the Board of Trustees of the Institutions of Higher Learning, to improve the state's education system.

Carey is the first private college to participate in Career Beginnings under Project 95. Project 95 focuses on raising high school graduation requirements and university admission standards and on enrolling more students, especially minority students, in college by 1995.

Career Beginnings, headed by Mrs.

Ruby Anderson as state director, is a college-business-community initiative in cities across the country designed to build on the demonstrated potential of high school students to overcome difficulties and achieve.

William Carey joins Mississippi University for Women, Mississippi Valley State University, and Copiah-Lincoln Community College in this initiative.

The program will be administered by Bill Payne, Dean of the Coast campus and Assistant to the President for Planning and Research. The following school districts will be involved in the William Carey Program: Gulfport, Harrison Central, Moss Point, and D'Iberville.

## Churches adopt expanded annuity plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the January 9 issue of the Baptist Record: Benton-Tippah; Pleasant Hill; Calhoun; Midway; Carroll-Montgomery; Mt. Olive; George; Heritage; Gulf Coast; Bond; Lowndes; Antioch; Noxubee; Macon Calvary; Pearl River; Bethel; and Tallahatchie; FBC Sumner.



# Senate rejects prayer bill

Thursday, February 6, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

WASHINGTON (ABP) — The U.S. Senate rejected an amendment to an education bill that would have urged the Supreme Court to reverse two landmark decisions banning school-sponsored prayer and Bible reading. The amendment, offered by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., came during debate on a major educational-reform bill Jan. 23. The amendment was defeated 55-38.

Helms' amendment to the Neighborhood Schools Improvement Act (S. 2) would have expressed a "sense of the Senate" that the Supreme Court use a pending graduation-prayer case to reverse *Engel v. Vitale* and *Abington School District v. Schempp*. The 1962 and 1963 Supreme Court decisions ruled public school-sponsored prayer and devotional Bible reading unconstitutional.

In November, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *Lee v. Weisman*. At issue in the graduation-prayer case is the long-standing *Lemon* test used to decide whether governmental actions violate the First Amendment's ban against an establishment of religion.

The Bush administration has asked the court to abandon the test, which requires government neutrality toward religion, in favor of a more le-

nient standard that would allow government involvement in religion as long as no coercion is present.

During debate, Helms said the deterioration of school discipline began with the 1962 and 1963 decisions. The vast majority of Americans agree with what this amendment proposes, he said.

But Sen. Paul Simon, D-Ill., disagreed. He said that the national interest and the cause of religion in America would be best served if Helms' proposal was defeated. Simon warned the Senate to be careful in relegating the responsibility of American homes, churches, and synagogues to public schools.

Simon also applauded the *Lemon* test, noting the separation of church and state has served the country well.

Helms denied separation of church and state was at issue. He said he offered the proposal so that "voluntary prayer, Bible reading, or religious meetings" in public schools or buildings could be allowed to the extent such activities are not mandatory.

But a Baptist Joint Committee attorney said those rights already exist.

Brent Walker, BJC associate general counsel, said: "The Helms amendment was ill-conceived. The amendment appeared to try to restore

state-sponsored classroom prayer. That would be clearly unconstitutional.

"Nobody in *Lee v. Weisman* is urging the court to go that far — to deal with classroom prayer. To the degree the amendment had less ambitious aims, it was unnecessary. Students already can pray and read Bibles privately and meet in groups to do the same under the Equal Access Act. So the amendment's aim was either unconstitutional or superfluous."

## Choice debate remains

WASHINGTON (ABP) — The Bush administration's chances of getting Congress to approve its plan to channel federal tax dollars to private schools suffered a significant setback when the Senate approved a major education bill Jan. 28.

The Senate adopted the Neighborhood Schools Improvement Act (S. 2) by a 92-6 vote. The Senate rejected attempts to include elements of President Bush's "choice" proposal to provide federal vouchers for parents to send their children to private and religious schools.

However, a private choice proposal is alive in the House, where the Committee on Education and Labor has approved a bill that would allow states to channel federal funds to private schools if state constitutions permit it. The bill (H.R. 3320) has not come to the House floor.

Before an education bill can be sent to Bush for his signature, any differences in the Senate and House bills must be ironed out.

"The focus of church-state separationists now shifts to the House of Representatives," said James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee. "A bill loaded with church-state entanglement from the House Committee on Education and Labor must be drastically cleaned up."

The Senate-approved bill would authorize \$850 million in annual grants to states to finance comprehensive education improvement at the local school level. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., is designed to help the nation achieve its education goals that deal with issues such as school readiness and completion, student achievement, lifelong learning, and teacher recruitment.

Don't ever be satisfied just to do a particular job well. This is good, but not good enough for you! Learn how to work with joy and ease, and don't stop working until you reach the pinnacle. When you do, you'll begin to see new mountains to climb and new fields to conquer. Climb them! Conquer them! Keep growing and developing all your abilities all your life. — Winifred Wilkinson



Zhanna Nurmukhamedova, left, is pictured with Mississippi's George Smith, pastor of Ecu Church, in Alma-Ata, capital of the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan. The two met during the Kazakh-American Cultural Festival held last summer under the auspices of the Golden Apple Foundation. Zhanna was a student at Mississippi College during the fall semester of 1990.

## Festival brings Christ to former MC student

By Shannon T. Simpson

In its Dec. 13, 1990 issue, the Baptist Record reported on the historic first student exchange between the Soviet Union and the Cooperative Services International Education Consortium (CSIEC). That exchange resulted in the arrival of two Kazakh students on the Mississippi College campus for fall semester, 1990. They were Yarik Didaev and Zhanna Nurmukhamedova. They returned to their hometown of Alma-Ata, capital of the Kazakh republic, late in 1990.

Last summer, in part through the witness of Mississippi pastor George Smith of Ecu, Zhanna became a Christian.

Zhanna and Smith met during the Kazakh-American Cultural Festival, held in Kazakhstan in the summer of 1991. Smith noticed Zhanna's MC T-shirt while she was working at the press center for the festival. The two began a conversation which led to several meetings. Eventually they shared privately, and Zhanna prayed to receive Christ, according to Smith.

"I can't tell you how I feel; I can't speak very good English, but I am very excited," Smith recalls her saying after they had prayed together.

"I remember very well how (Smith) explained to me that Jesus died for the sins of all people, it touched my heart," Zhanna told the Baptist Record. "He explained many things to me in a way I could understand."

Zhanna, and her family who nominally profess Islam, hosted Smith for a July 4 dinner celebration in their home. Smith found them "excited for Zhanna, and very appreciative of the (American) presence there and witness to her."

In a recent correspondence with the Baptist Record, Zhanna wrote of her family: "... My mother is very close to accepting Christ herself, and my father was not opposed to my faith ... My father died two and a half months ago. His death has caused me to believe more strongly in Christ because I know that now that my earthly father is gone I must rely more on my heavenly Father."

Since her conversion, Zhanna has attended Bible studies with a Christian American couple living in Alma-Ata, and with Kevin and Kristina Buss, Cooperative Services International workers there.

"I am terribly missing my American friends ... I feel such a vacuum in my soul ..." Zhanna wrote to Smith shortly after his return to the United States. "But God helps me with everything. He did not leave me alone."

According to Smith, Zhanna now works as an interpreter, continues her studies in food sciences at Kazakh State University, and is involved in Bible conferences and efforts to organize student groups in Alma-Ata.

If finances become available, Zhanna plans to come to Blue Mountain College in the fall of this year to complete her education. At present, scholarships will only cover half of her tuition costs.

But Smith is hopeful for the future where opportunities for Zhanna are concerned.

"There is no such thing as coincidence in the world of Christians," said Smith. "God put me in the right place at the right time. Nothing's impossible with God."

## Browns to retire after 30 years in Northwest

Ervin Brown, director of missions for Northwest Association, has announced that he will retire March 1, 1992. He began work in that position 30 years ago, on March 1, 1962 (except that then it was Desoto Association, and in 1980 Desoto and Tate merged to become Northwest).

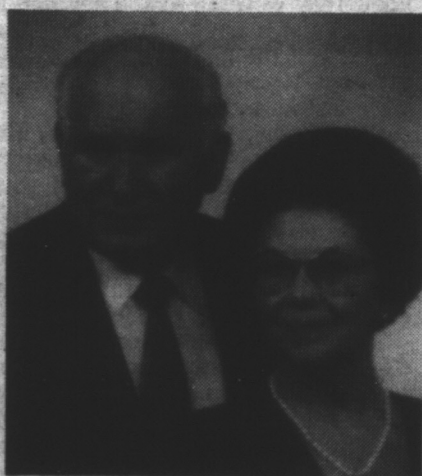
Brown's wife, Ruth, also retiring, has served as office manager for the association since Jan. 1, 1975. The association will honor the two with a reception at Hernando Church, on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 23.

Northwest Association now has 55 churches, 34 in Desoto and 21 in Tate. The Browns have seen 23 churches come into the association, 20 in Desoto and three in Tate, where he was foster missionary for seven years before the merger. Not only did he help get these 23 churches started, but he was beginning mission pastor of five of them: First, Nesbit; Colonial Hills; Parkway; Twin Lakes; and Summerwood. Also he was interim pastor of Longview Heights while helping that congregation move from Memphis into Mississippi.

In 1981, the association bought 113 acres near Eudora for a training center for a camp and retreat program. It has been named the Ervin Brown Training Center. Besides six weeks of camps for boys and girls in summer, many churches and the association use the center for weekend prayer retreats, camp-outs, picnics, etc.

Brown led in building an associational office in Hernando in 1971 and an addition to it in 1983.

Mrs. Brown, the former Ruth House, has also served as associational clerk since 1970. Her complete and accurate associational annuals have been noted at Associational Clerks Conferences at Ridgecrest as some of the best. Also she has led Associational Clerks Conferences for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. For Northwest, she began the



Ervin and Ruth Brown

associational Ministers' Wives Fellowship and led in getting the Church Secretaries' Conference organized.

Ervin Brown, born in Charleston, S.C., moved as a small boy to Columbus, Miss. Converted at 13, he was called to preach at 19. He is a graduate of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Before becoming director of missions, he served five pastorates, including First, Eudora, and First, Nesbit.

He has been a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, member of the board of directors of the Christian Action Commission, and president of the Hernando Rotary Club. In 1983, he was elected first vice-president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The Browns have led in enlisting teams for Bold Mission projects for 12 years. For 10 years, he has led in January Bible Study projects in Montana and Wyoming.

The Browns, who have two daughters and three grandsons, will continue to live in Hernando. He said he expects to remain active in supply and interim work in the churches of the area.

## Supreme Court denial guts dial-a-porn

WASHINGTON (BP) — Southern Baptists actively opposing pornography hailed the Supreme Court's recent refusal to hear an appeal by the dial-a-porn industry as the telling blow in a conclusive victory over such telephone indecency.

On Jan. 27 the court announced it would not review appeals court decisions upholding a 1989 law restricting

dial-a-porn indecency. The law and resultant regulations by the Federal Communications Commission require customers to file a written request in advance for the service and mandates dial-a-porn companies provide a descrambling device paid for in advance by the consumer.

These restrictions block easy access to dial-a-porn numbers by

children, who, in the past, constituted 70 to 80% of those calling such lines, lawyer Rob Showers of Washington, said.

The court's refusal to hear the appeal "signals the death knell for the \$2.4 billion industry known as dial-a-porn," said Showers, a Southern Baptist who has been a crusader against pornography.



## WMU issues result of awareness effort

By Susan Todd Doyle

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Woman's Missionary Union has completed what the organization's leaders believe to be the most comprehensive research ever conducted about Southern Baptist women.

The research findings form the basis for the most extensive media campaign ever directed toward women by Southern Baptists, WMU leaders said.

WMU hired Lawler Ballard Van Durand, a Birmingham advertising, public relations, and marketing firm, almost two years ago to work with WMU leaders in an awareness-building effort.

The research, which is believed by both Lawler Ballard Van Durand and WMU to be the most comprehensive study ever done among Southern Baptist women, was released at the end of 1991. Some of the findings were reported during the WMU executive board meeting Jan. 11-16 at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly in Talladega, Ala.

The research project assessed opinions and perceptions about WMU.

The research also showed that many non-WMU members do not perceive WMU involvement to be a worthwhile use of their time.

Their lack of satisfaction seems to come from WMU's meeting structure, Bonney said. "Many former and non-former members perceive WMU to be long on passive, ineffectual activities and short on action that produces results," he said.

"WMU's age-level group structure may have been appropriate in earlier times, and may still be in some places, but it is clear from our study that this structure will in many ways restrict WMU from carrying out its charge in the years to come," Bonney said.

"WMU must find ways to accommodate Southern Baptists, including men, who want to express their missions commitment through WMU's outlets," he said.

His findings also showed:

- \* "Better than four-in-10 Southern Baptist women overall are currently affiliated with WMU." Of the respondents to the survey, one-fifth of them are members of Baptist Women. A total of 42% of the respondents used to be members of a WMU age-level organization. The findings also indicate that 40% of Southern Baptist adult women have never been af-

filiated with a WMU age-level organization.

- \* About 47% of WMU members live in rural and small-town areas instead of urban areas. More than 33% of WMU members live in small or large cities. Only 17% of WMU members live in the suburbs.

- \* WMU is not made up of just older women. There is little difference between the age profile of all WMU members and the age profile of all women and girls within the SBC.

The misperception that WMU is made up of just older women may relate more to "the strong connection between Baptist Women and WMU," Bonney said, and the weaker connection between WMU and the younger age-level groups, such as Mission Friends for preschoolers, Girls in Action for girls in grades one through six, Acteens for girls in grades seven through 12, and Baptist Young Women for women ages 18-34.

- \* Among current members, only 27% work outside the home full-time, compared to 69% of non-members who work outside the home.

- \* Nearly twice as many WMU members as non-members have only a high school education. "The percentage of non-members who have completed college or attained more advanced education is twice that of WMU members," Bonney said.

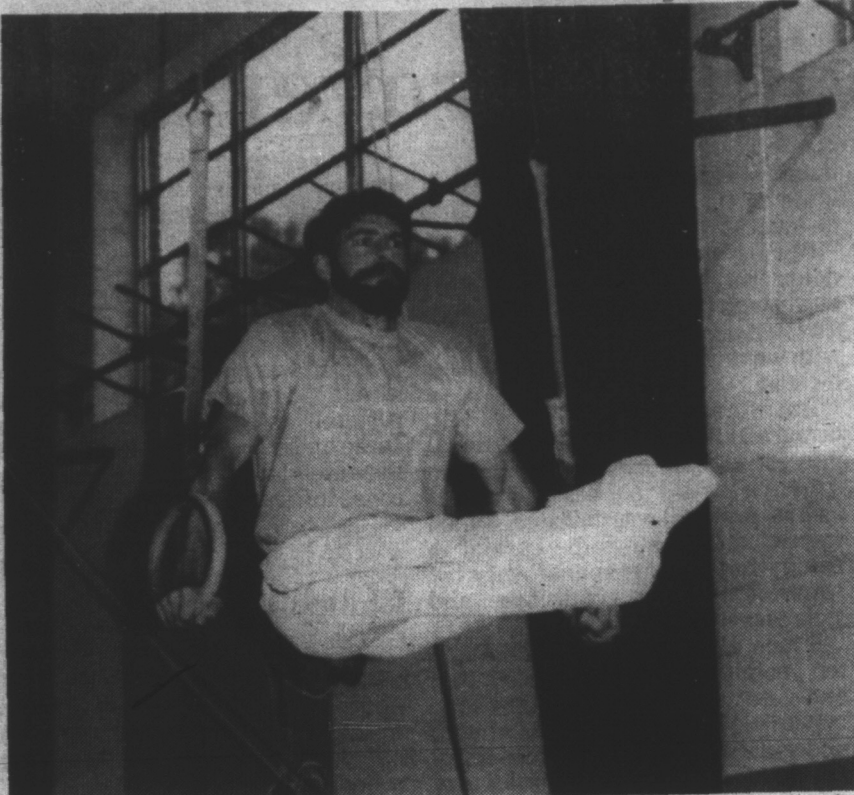
Based on the research findings, Lawler Ballard Van Durand and WMU have developed an awareness-building campaign scheduled to be launched in April and May. The campaign is targeted to three groups of women — Southern Baptist women who aren't involved in WMU, non-Southern Baptist women who are Christians and are interested in missions, and women who are not Christians.

The campaign features a four-color, four-page insert which will appear in regional editions of five magazines: Family Circle, Woman's Day, Parents Magazine, Better Homes and Gardens, and Good Housekeeping.

Approximately 8 million copies of the insert are being printed for distribution through the magazines and through distribution of the "overprints" by state WMU offices.

The insert will showcase mission action projects WMU members are doing across the country to improve the quality of life for others.

Doyle writes for WMU.



While teaching his sons' gymnastics, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary student Eric Sheaffer demonstrates proper form on the rings. Sheaffer used his gymnastics skills as a ministry, leading gymnasts to Christ, before enrolling at the seminary. (Photo by Jody Sheaffer)

## Gymnast NOBTS student leads his own students to Christ

By Breena Kent Paine

NEW ORLEANS — Dressed in a leotard and tights, with tears in her eyes, little gymnast Renee Hall found a new life in Christ because her gymnastics teacher believed in "body, mind, and spirit."

Eric Sheaffer, a former Mississippian, had always been up-front with his faith, pointing his students toward Jesus' love, leading them in prayer during workouts and competitions, and even naming his gymnasium Maranatha Academy. Now nine-year-old Renee was the last one on her team to accept Christ, and she knew it.

"Renee would listen quietly as we talked about what Jesus had done in our lives and how someone else got saved," Sheaffer said. "Then one day, she was on the balance beam and I was leaning against the beam coaching her. All of a sudden, she said, 'Some day, Eric, I'm going to get saved.'"

"When she said the same thing later on, I realized she wanted me to show her how." So Sheaffer took her outside and explained the plan of salvation to her, and Renee accepted Christ.

Sheaffer began learning gymnastics while at Richland College in Dallas, Tex. Then at Stephen F. Austin State University, in Nacogdoches, Tex., he completed collegiately as a rings specialist.

Teaching a boys' gymnastics class in an inner-city program, Sheaffer found he had a rapport with children. His last semester of college, he had to make a decision whether to go into forestry, which he had spent five years training for, or to teach gymnastics.

Then Sheaffer was offered a summer job at a girls' gymnastics camp in western Massachusetts, where most of the gymnasts were wealthy Jewish girls from New York, and the four coaches under him were not Christians.

Still a new Christian himself, "my heart died for those aides because I

knew they were all lost. They had a lack of basis for morals," Sheaffer said. "And the girls were highly intelligent, highly motivated, but they were lost as well."

"That's when God moved in my life to use gymnastics as a ministry, because those three months I was there, I never heard the (name) Jesus Christ. I tried to witness, but my knowledge was so small; I just noticed the kids needed Christ. When that camp ended, I was broken."

Then Sheaffer was offered a job as director of a gymnastics school in Long Beach, Miss., where he taught for two years. "I was very open about my faith. It was a small town. Everyone knew where I stood," he said.

"We prayed and read Scripture before every workout. We dedicated our gymnastics team to the Lord, and got top honors in state championships. It caused quite a stir because we would join together and pray before competition. Everyone thought we were strange, but then we started winning!"

As Sheaffer's wife, Jody, was a dance instructor, they decided to open their own business together in an old warehouse building in Pensacola, Fla.

"We started off right away with the fact that we were Christians, and named our business Maranatha Academy, with the motto 'Maranatha believes in body, mind, and spirit.' By our third year of business, we had 800 students in dance and gymnastics," he continued. Three years later, they built their own building, and then had to build yet another to accommodate their booming business.

Some of the coaches Sheaffer hired were Christians; but some were not, and one of his greatest joys was leading several of his staff to Christ.

One girl, Laura, who had started on Sheaffer's gymnastics team as a 13-year-old, came on staff at 18. "I

## Surgeon Schaap robbed in Yemen

IBB, Yemen — Gunmen stole a vehicle from a Jibla Baptist Hospital surgeon and left him and his family stranded in a rural area of northern Yemen. Henk Schaap was driving the four-wheel-drive Land Cruiser in northern Yemen Dec. 30 when a car suddenly blocked the narrow road. Two men armed with automatic weapons approached the car, threw open the doors, and ordered the family out of the vehicle. The couple quickly got out with their three sons, ages 13, 11, and 8, and the two men drove away. An accomplice drove off in the vehicle used to block the road. "It happened so very quickly," Schaap said. "Within 15 seconds or so everything had happened." A passing taxi took the Schaaps north, where they were headed to visit friends. Schaap, who is Dutch, is serving a two-year contract at Jibla Baptist Hospital. In recent years the hospital has had to use contract workers because too few Southern Baptists have volunteered to work in the Middle Eastern country.

## New teen Bible studies tackle current issues

By Frank Wm. White

NASHVILLE — Innovative ideas and a simple plan will help the Baptist Sunday School Board provide week-time Bible studies youth leaders have been requesting, according to a youth Sunday School materials editor.

The first volume of "StraightTrak: Teen Bible Studies on Current Issues" will be available in April for use in youth Bible study sessions other than Sunday morning, said Judy Wooldridge, editor of the materials.

StraightTrak volumes will be released at the beginning of each quarter and will include materials for 10 Bible study sessions.

The first volume will include three studies on alcohol, three on friendship,

three on sex, and one on world events. Wooldridge said volumes generally will include one "wild card" session, on a developing issue.

The study will provide materials for teachers in a brief two-page format for each session.

Research indicated that youth Bible study leaders did not want materials for students for this type study, Wooldridge said. "What they are looking for is material to help them lead the study."

StraightTrak may be ordered through the board's customer service center toll-free number at 1-800-458-2772.

White writes for BSSB.

didn't know where she stood with Christ," Sheaffer said. "I knew her father drank, her brother was in rebellion, and her family was in pieces. So I asked her, 'Do you feel there's anything in this world other than yourself you can depend on?'"

When Laura answered "No," he told her of Christ's love, and how she could always depend on him if she would only accept him as her Savior. That afternoon, Laura asked Jesus into her life.

Every story did not have a happy ending, however. Sheaffer interviewed one intelligent, good-looking, gymnast with charisma to be his business' new director. "I thought he was the one for the job, but my wife said, 'Don't hire him; I don't feel right about it.' I hired him anyway."

"Within a few months, he almost stole the business right out from underneath us; and with his ability to manipulate adults, he had turned a large section of our closest parents against us."

"Right before we fired him, I noticed an insignia on his shoulder I'd never seen before," Sheaffer said. "It was the satanic symbol of the moon and stars. Then I remembered that in the interview, he had said, 'I go to church, but it's a lot different than what most people do.'"

"We fired him and we lost some of our customers. But we were reminded that any time you're trying to get things done for Christ, Satan attacks."

Not long afterwards, Sheaffer left his Pensacola business to enroll as a student in the master of divinity degree program at New Orleans Seminary because he felt God calling him to preach.

As a gymnastics teacher, Sheaffer believed in body, mind, and spirit, pointing his students toward Christ's love. But now, as a preacher, he wants to point the world to Christ.

Paine writes for New Orleans Seminary.



# HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 6, 1992

HOUSE TOPS is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

## Pray Without Ceasing...

by Indy Whitten,  
Prayer Coordinator, MBCB

Charles and I are in our fifth month as volunteer coordinators of the Bold Mission Prayer Thrust Ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. A moment ago Graham Smith, director of the Church Music Department, popped into our office and said that he'd like to suggest a theme song for our promotion. He sang the chorus of a hymn written by the late G. Kerney Keagan, entitled "Pray Without Ceasing."

We agreed that is a wonderful theme. Pray without ceasing that the love and compassion of our Lord will reach around the world, beginning at the feet of the one who prays. Across the street; across the world. Pray!

We have just returned from a three-week trip to South and Central America. In Ecuador we visited with our oldest daughter and her husband and four children. In Nicaragua we visited with our second daughter and husband and four children. Besides family time, we were able to see the work first hand and participate in it. Though we served on three continents outside the USA for 40 years, we saw things that seemed absolutely new. We were impressed anew with the needs on all the mission fields of the world. Missionaries underscored the need for prayer support, along with financial backing and new recruits.

In Nicaragua all missionaries had to leave the country in 1982 because of the political climate. Nicaraguan Baptists continued to carry on the work along until missionaries could return. In 1990 a Southern Baptist couple, Jim and Viola Palmer transferred from Honduras and in 1991 a second S.B. couple transferred from El Salvador. (This couple has special interest to us since they are Sam and Margaret Whitten Drummond.)

The Nicaraguan Baptist Convention is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. They have set a goal for the years remaining between now and the end of the century: Every church establishing a Mission that will grow into a church.

Missionaries and nationals say: "Keep us in your prayers."

We were impressed with the communication breakthrough and the use of the modern FAX. But prayer without ceasing is an instant message that moves the power of God to be manifested in any place—no matter how distant. I Tim. 2:1 TEV says, "First of all, then I urge that petitions, prayer requests and thanksgiving be offered to God for all people." HT

## SMALL CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 15, 1992

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

A conference for leadership of small churches is set for Feb. 15 at Mississippi College in Clinton.

The program, sponsored by the Ministry Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is designed especially for people who have leadership positions in churches of 150 or fewer enrolled in Sunday School.

Conferences will be offered for the following leaders:

- Pastors
- Sunday School Directors
- Adult Sunday School Workers
- Youth Sunday School Workers

- Children's Sunday School Workers
- Preschool Sunday School Workers
- Discipleship Training Directors
- Adult Discipleship Training Leaders
- Youth Discipleship Training Leaders
- Children's Discipleship Training Leaders
- Preschool Discipleship Training Leaders
- WMU Directors
- Baptist Women Leaders
- Baptist Young Women Leaders
- Acteens Leaders

- G.A. Leaders
- Mission Friends Leaders
- Baptist Men Leaders
- R.A. Leaders
- Volunteer Music Directors
- Church Pianists
- Preschool/Children Music Leaders

Those planning to attend need to have their registrations in their associational office by Feb. 10 so that complimentary meals may be prepared accordingly.

The program begins at 9:30 a.m., and concludes at 3:15 that afternoon. HT

**Disciple Youth**  
CONFERENCE  
February 28-29, 1992  
FBC, Brandon

- DiscipleYouth I: 10 hours of Personal Experience
- Begins - 6:30 p.m., Friday, 2/28
- Concludes - 4:00 p.m., Saturday, 2/29
- \$35 per person & \$15 for spouse

For Reservations please call --Robin Nichols, 968-3800



# FOCUS ON HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

How Do I Get  
Started?

... by attending

A Priority for Your  
Sunday School Growth

A personal note from James Berthelot, BSSB  
Adult Consultant, Homebound Specialist:

"I want to invite you and your church to attend a special awareness and training conference in your area. I will be in Mississippi the week of Feb. 10-14, 1992. The conference is for churches wanting to improve their ministry or inquiring about homebound work. The area of homebound work can become one of the greatest outreach programs in your church. The homebound ministry is growing and helps reach all ages for your Sunday School. There are more than 7 million homebound adults. I look forward to having you and others from your church at one of the conferences and personally meeting each of you."

## • AWARENESS • INFORMATION • TRAINING

| DATE        | TIME            | CITY     | CHURCH                             |
|-------------|-----------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| February 10 | 7:00-9:15 p.m.  | Tupelo   | West Jackson Street Baptist Church |
| February 11 | 7:00-9:15 p.m.  | Columbus | First Baptist Church               |
| February 12 | 9:30-11:45 a.m. | Meridian | First Baptist Church               |
| February 13 | 7:00-9:15 p.m.  | Gulfport | First Baptist Church               |

## SMALL CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE

-Music classes to be featured

On Saturday, Feb. 15, Mississippi College will host a Small Church Leadership Training Conference at 9:30-3:15 p.m.

Music leadership will have three classes to choose from. The **Volunteer Music Directors Class** will be taught by Jimmy McCaleb, Contract Consultant with the Church Music Department, MBCB, and the Study Course Book, *Growing a Musical Church* will be available at a cost of \$7. Irene Martin, Music Specialist with the Church Music

Department will be teaching the **Church Pianists Class**. The Study Course Book *Five Practical Lessons for Church Pianists* will be available at a cost of \$4.08. Children's Choir workers will want to attend the **Children's Choir Workers Class** (combined Grades 1-6) to be taught by Karen Hardy. Hardy is also a Music Specialist with the Church Music Department. The Study Course Book, *How to Lead Children's Choirs*, will also be available at the conference at a cost of \$6.15.

If you already have a copy of the Study Course Book to be used in the class you wish to attend, please bring it with you to the conference. Study Course credit will be given.

Each music class offered at this conference is sponsored by the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. HT

## The Mississippi River Ministry

Mary Ann Bell Odom wrote in a piece entitled "The Delta" some words which express a feeling about this land. She said "Surely we're bound in unity by pride so strong it's a mystery. This unique feeling so immense it fosters a base of confidence, enabling us to understand the contradictions of our land. It seems a presence that will never die; listen do you hear it passing by? Come winters that freeze and summers that swelter, I will survive! I'm the Mississippi Delta!"

Southern Baptists will gather from seven states for a convocation on the Mississippi River Ministry. The convocation will be held on August 7-8, in 1992, at the Eudora Baptist Church in Memphis. This region has over 4.3 million people living in 127 counties in the states of Mississippi, which has 22, Arkansas, Louisiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri and Tennessee.

The Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will be linked with the Home Mission Board, Brotherhood and WMU of SBC and the seven states designated as the Mississippi River Ministry to provide awareness of the needs for ministry. Volunteers will be called into the area to provide energy through ministry projects that will empower persons in the area to cope with life on limited resources. The area suffers from poor housing, inadequate health care, poverty, spiritual need, illiteracy, divorce, alcohol and drug dependencies. According to Home Mission Board Studies, about 50 percent of the region is non-churched.

Persons wishing information on the August 7-8, convocation should contact the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Mississippi River Ministry Awareness gatherings are planned for Clarksdale, Rosedale, Greenville, Vicksburg and Natchez in March. Dr. Gary Farley, Home Mission Board, will be the guest speaker. HT

### PRAYER PINS AVAILABLE:

Churches may order them from the Prayer Ministry office of the MBCB at the price of 50 cents each.

Contact Charles or Indy Whitten  
Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

# HOUSE TOPS



## LEARNING TO SHARE MY FAITH

This eight session Evangelism and Missions module equips Christians to use the Roman Road Witnessing Plan to share their faith. The study discusses the necessity of witnessing, preparing to lead others to Christ, marking a New Testament, learning the Roman Road Witnessing plan, using an evangelistic prospect discovery and analysis plan, visiting and cultivating a prospect, overcoming hindrances, and following through after a profession of faith.

Many churches offer this training following their witness commitment Sunday.

This is an equipping center module available from the Baptist Book Store at \$13.25. Churches will also need to order an adequate number of members' booklets at \$1.55 each. **HT**

## Musically Speaking...

The **CHURCH ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL** will be held on Saturday, February 22, 1992 at Crossgates Baptist Church in Brandon. The guest clinician will be Dr. Joe King from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas. Each orchestra will play two selections for adjudication. If time allows, a mass orchestra composed of all the church orchestras will play under the direction of Dr. King.

The **ANNUAL STATE YOUTH FOUR PART MUSIC FESTIVAL** will be held on Saturday, February 29, 1992 at First Baptist Church, Brandon. Students in grades ten, eleven, and twelve will participate in the areas of piano, organ, instruments, voice and conducting.

The **CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE** will meet March 26-27 at Parkway Church, Jackson. Wes Forbis, director of the Church Music Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will be guest speaker. Susan Messer, on the music faculty at New Orleans Seminary, will also be leading sessions at the conference. Concerts will be given by the Mississippi Singing Churchmen and by the Carey College Chorale. The program begins at 1 p.m. on March 26, and concludes the next day at 12:30 p.m. **HT**

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST YOUNG RINGERS HANDBELL/CHIME FESTIVAL

May 16, 1992

Oak Forest Baptist Church, Jackson, MS

**T**his Festival is designed for children/youth or mixed choirs of children and youth. The music selected for this festival will be Beginning, Easy, and Easy medium difficulty. It will be limited to two to three octave range of handbells and/or chimes.

To register, complete the registration form found on back of HouseTOPs and return with appropriate fees to the Church Music Department by May 4. The fee is \$15.00 per choir.

Set-up and registration are from 9:00-10:00 a.m. The Festival will conclude by 3:00 p.m. Mass ringing begins at 10:00 a.m. Lunch is on your own, Metro and fast food outlets are near.

There is no adjudication, but choirs that would like the experience of ringing for others will be allowed 2 1/2 minutes to ring a selection of their choice. This selection should not be one of the Mass ringing numbers. Each of these choirs will ring from its mass ringing position.

Please prepare well for the Mass Ringing selections. If your choir does not know a particular piece, please do not ask them to ring it. They may sit and listen. The

selections may be ordered from the Baptist Book Store or the suppliers. Please note that some selections are from collections. While collections are more costly initially, you probably have these collections already. If not, they are well worth the investment as you will find them an excellent addition to beginners handbell/chime repertoire.

They are:

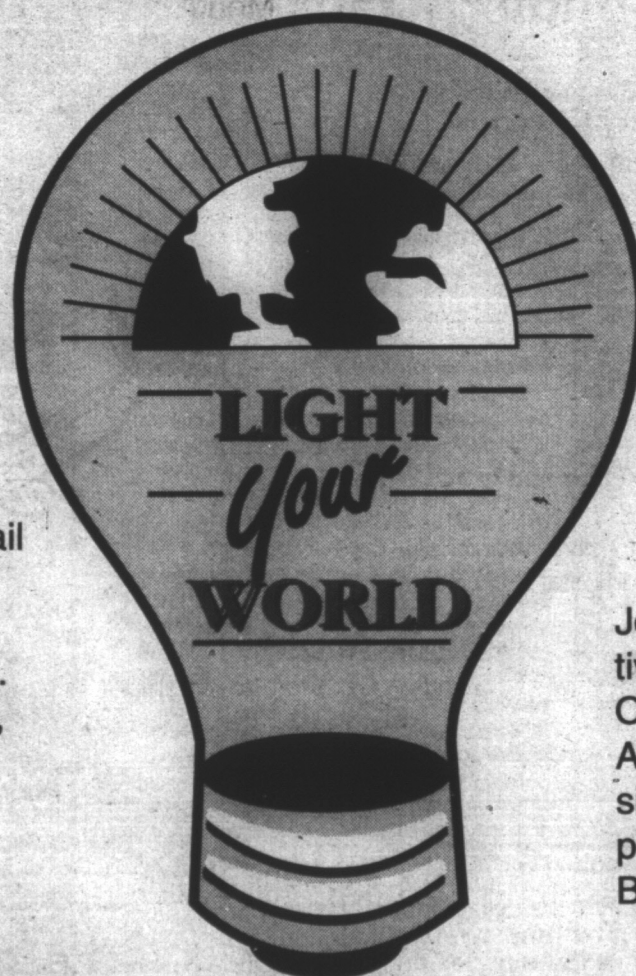
1. *Ring for the First Time*, Linda McKechnie  
Code HL5232, Flammer  
*Thanksgiving Celebration*  
*Sarasponda*
2. *Clapper Classics*, Thompson/Callahan Code 1254  
*Agape*  
*Largo from the New World Symphony*  
*Theme from the Surprise Symphony*
3. *Ring Merrily*, Barbara Kinyon Code CGB106 Choristers Guild
4. *Away in a Manger*, Tammy Rawlinson Code 3014053317 Word
5. *With Timbrel and Dance*, Margaret Tucker Code BE0436 Composers **HT**

## COED YOUTH MISSIONS CONFERENCE

APRIL 10-11  
FRIDAY 7 P.M. -  
SATURDAY 3:30 P.M.

Youth leadership  
will receive information  
through the  
mail.

Pre-registration: Mail  
\$5.00 per person to  
WMU, Box 530,  
Jackson, MS 39205.  
Deadline is Monday,  
April 6.

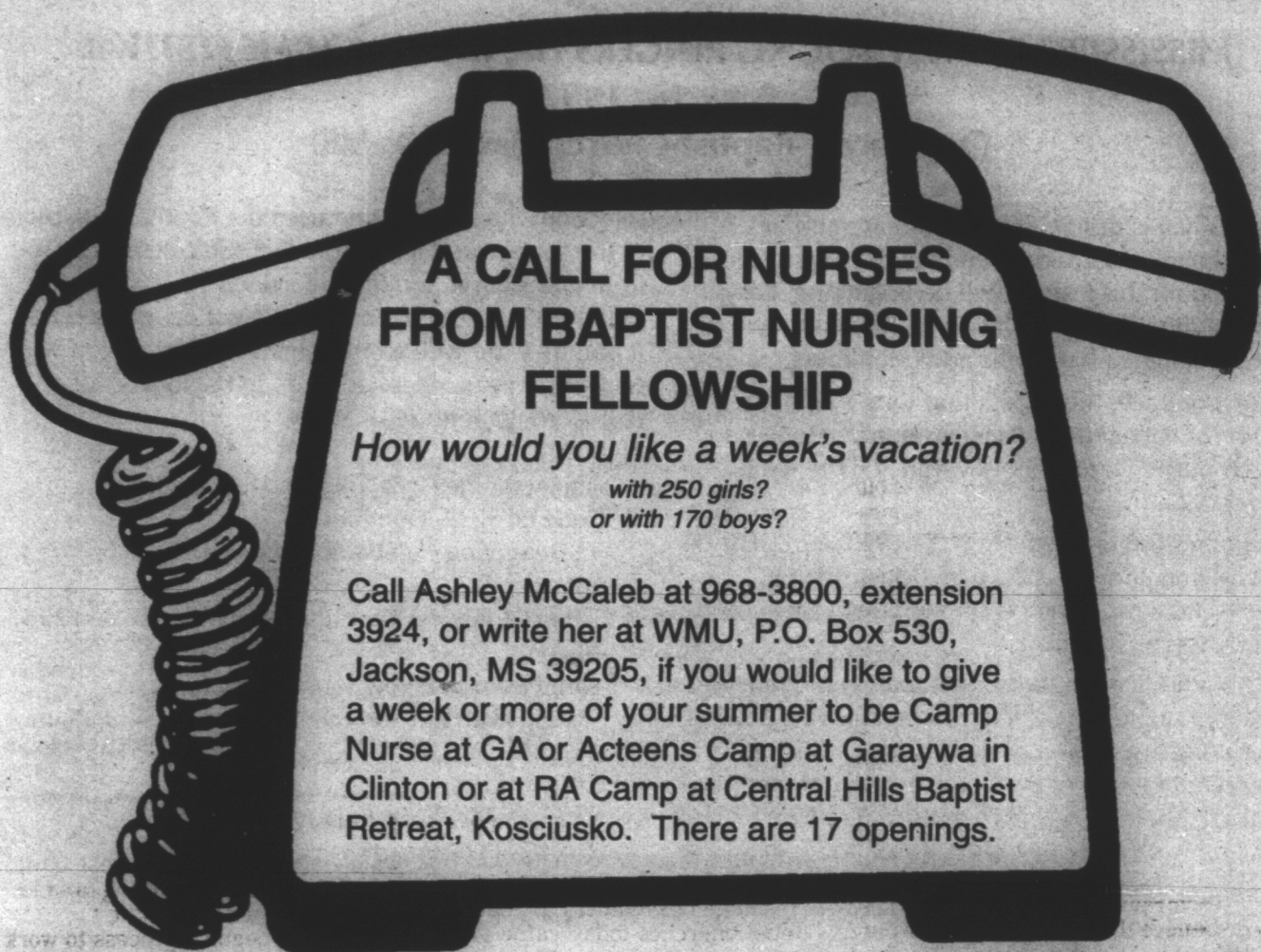


MISSISSIPPI  
COLLEGE,  
CLINTON

missionaries:  
Kyle and Susan  
Matthews,  
Nashville

John Croyle, executive director, Big Oaks Ranch (was All-American defensive end when he played for Coach Bear Bryant)





## A CALL FOR NURSES FROM BAPTIST NURSING FELLOWSHIP

*How would you like a week's vacation?  
with 250 girls?  
or with 170 boys?*

Call Ashley McCaleb at 968-3800, extension 3924, or write her at WMU, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, if you would like to give a week or more of your summer to be Camp Nurse at GA or Acteens Camp at Garaywa in Clinton or at RA Camp at Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko. There are 17 openings.

## 1992 State Handbell/Chime Festival

May 16

Oak Forest Baptist Church  
REGISTRATION FORM

Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Association \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Minister of Music \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Choir Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Number in Group \_\_\_\_\_  
Director \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tables you are bringing \_\_\_\_\_  
Total feet in length \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of octaves \_\_\_\_\_

Ring for the Parade of choirs:

☐ No ☐ Yes (2 1/2 minutes maximum)

This form and fees should reach the Church Music Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 **no later than May 4**. The fee is non-refundable. Please make checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

☐ Registration fee of \$15.00 is enclosed. (Lunch is on your own)

## GUIDING CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Tuesday, March 31, 1992  
Baptist Building, Jackson

- To help pastors and children's worship leaders
- To understand children and their concept of worship
- To decide how to determine needs and
- To provide worship experiences for children.
- To learn how to use current Baptist Sunday School Board material guiding children in worship services.

### SCHEDULE

- 9:30 Coffee and Registration
- 10:00 Introduction
- 10:10 What is Worship
- 11:00 Pastor's view of children and worship (panel)
- 12:15 Lunch
- 1:00 How to use the worship resource kit
- 2:00 Helping children understand conversion



### REGISTRATION FORM

Guiding Children in Worship  
March 31, 1992

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_ Your Position \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose this form with your registration fee and mail to Linda Reeves, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Make check payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

## SMALL CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Mississippi College

February 15, 1992

9:30 - 3:15

(Noon meal provided)

CHURCH LEADERS  
Especially...

Discipleship  
Training Leaders  
with

- Preschool
- Children
- Youth
- Adults



**DISCIPLESHIP  
TRAINING**

HOUSE OF



# Why such different attitudes toward "inerrancy"?

By William H. Stephens  
(Part two of a three-part series)

NASHVILLE — How important is the word "inerrancy"? Many Southern Baptists reject the word completely; others just as strongly insist on it. Why do we have such different attitudes toward the word "inerrancy"?

For clarity, let me first state my point. "Inerrancy" as used among Southern Baptists and "inerrancy" as used by the wider world of evangelicalism have come out of different traditions. Among Southern Baptists, its history has been negative to most; in the wider world of evangelicalism it has been positive. Why the difference?

Modernism arose about the turn of the century. While it touched the South, the controversy took place primarily in the North.

Modernism was a movement which sought to accommodate theology to evolution. The conservative Christians who fought against this powerful trend came together under the general heading of fundamentalism. Denominations split over the issue of Scripture, and fundamentalism became focused strongly on defending the integrity of the Word of God.

As the decades passed, fundamentalists debated inspiration and developed a rather extensive vocabulary to describe how they believed the Bible must be viewed. After World War II, several leaders arose within fundamentalist ranks who sought to widen the scope of fundamentalism and bring it more into the evangelical mainstream.

The primary leaders were Carl F. H. Henry, Bernard Ramm, and Harold Ockenga. Fuller Theological Seminary in California came into be-

ing to this end.

Within the wider evangelical community represented by these leaders, along with the continuing fundamentalism, books about inspiration of Scripture proliferated. Within evangelicalism, "inerrancy" has distinguished conservative views of Scripture from liberal views and even at times has been used for more liberal viewpoints.

The tradition among Southern Baptists was different. We were touched by fundamentalism, but we did not by and large pick up the evangelical vocabulary. We debated the inspiration issue differently. "Inerrancy" to us referred specifically to that view of inerrancy which David Dockery identifies as "naive inerrancy" (or dictation theory) in *The Doctrine of the Bible*.

In his recent book, *Getting Acquainted with the Bible*, Herschel Hobbs points out that there are "two principal theories . . . the verbal plenary . . . and the dynamic theory." His definitions of these terms follow the traditional Southern Baptist way of defining them.

Hobbs' discussion illustrates why many Southern Baptists reject the term, inerrancy. My generation was taught two essential views of inspiration throughout our college and seminary courses: "inerrancy" and "dynamic." "Dynamic" was ill-defined; it basically was an alternative to the dictation view. While the wider evangelical world debated a range of acceptable views and carefully defined terms in the process, Southern Baptists did not. (We did debate the issue, but in simpler

ways.) As Hobbs indicates, the term "plenary verbal" was applied by Southern Baptists to the dictation view. These three terms accordingly were synonymous in Southern Baptist usage: dictation, plenary verbal, and inerrancy. The only alternative was "dynamic inspiration."

That brings us to Dockery's book. It is important that readers understand *The Doctrine of the Bible* uses the terms as evangelicals use them, not as Southern Baptists traditionally have done.

Therefore, the "dynamic" view is defined as a more liberal view than I or most Southern Baptists of my generation would subscribe to. Yet this is the word we have used all of our adult lives. So when "dynamic inspiration" is categorized as liberal, our hackles rise.

And when "plenary verbal" is used to describe the view we grew up calling "dynamic," we have trouble making the shift. To Dockery, "plenary verbal" is "balanced inerrancy." Some of us still must wrestle with the terms, but balanced inerrancy is essentially what we have always believed and taught.

Many who hold to the dynamic theory as Southern Baptists have used the term prefer to avoid precision about a view of inspiration.

Their reluctance is not because they disbelieve the Bible but because they believe people should let the Bible be what it is without imposing a detailed definition built on what they consider to be a rationalistic approach.

While I also am somewhat uneasy about the rationalistic roots of "inerrancy," I personally have made the

spiritual journey — and it was that — to accept the term as valid. I was aided in my journey by studying *The Chicago Statement on Inerrancy*. In 1978 an impressive group of conservative scholars met in Chicago and drafted this statement. It is rapidly becoming accepted among conservative theologians. These leading inerrantists discovered that seven pages were required to explain adequately what they meant by inerrancy.

It is hard for me to imagine a mainline, traditional Southern Baptist who would disagree with *The Chicago Statement on Inerrancy*, apart from those who object to the term for emotional reasons or because they believe it is creedal. Most Southern Baptists I know would have no problem with the definition.

But why must we relate to the word, "inerrancy" at all?

A short answer is that is the world we live in. Beginning particularly in the '70s, denominational loyalties began to break down. More and more people felt comfortable reading books from a wider range of evangelical scholars, attending nondenominational schools to prepare for ministry, interacting with a wider range of believers, and even changing to churches of other denominations. Few would question the fact that a high percentage of members in Southern Baptist churches today came out of other denominations. These new realities have thrust Southern Baptists into the wider world of evangelicalism where the terms are differently used. Either we must accommodate their vocabulary, or they must accommodate ours.

My own view of inspiration has not changed, but my awareness of what the word means has. The conviction is more important than the semantics. *The Doctrine of the Bible* will help Southern Baptists move beyond semantics to convictions. It is a study every Southern Baptist church should have for all of its people.

Stephens is senior curriculum coordinator in the Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training Department which publishes the annual Baptist Doctrine Study textbook. The 1992 study is slated for April 20-24 on the SBC calendar.

## Taiwan Baptists name missionaries

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hung have been appointed foreign missionaries to Germany by Taiwan's Chinese Baptist Convention. The Hungs will be working in Berlin, where he will be pastor of a Chinese congregation and work with students and others from China.

## DRUMMOND, From page 3

which will serve as the presidential search committee, returning to a closed session later that night.

"We have begun a process to work through," Ellsworth said. He would offer no speculation but, privately, several trustees said Paige Patterson likely would be the leading candidate. Patterson is president of Criswell College in Dallas and was high on the lists for agency executive vacancies at the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and Baptist Sunday School Board.

Hollinger is director of Baptist Press.

## CLASSIFIED

RATE 50c per word, \$5.00 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

**FLOWER SHOP FOR SALE:** nice cooler, equipment, large inventory. (601) 969-0211.

**CHRISTIAN POTTER NEEDS** place to dig small amount of clay. Jim Francis, Mississippi Mud Works, 2011 Kensington, Ocean Springs, MS 39564; (601) 875-9122.

**FOR SALE: CHURCH VAN, 1990;** 31,800 miles, one owner. Fifteen passenger. Front and rear air and heat, tinted windows. Beautiful. Great deal at \$12,000. Deacon Lewis at (601) 323-3892.

**\$299.00 NEW ATV TRAILERS;** \$599.00 2-axle trailers; 20' — \$799.00; new 12' stock trailers — \$1,599.00; 16' — \$1,999.00; Bush Hogs 4' - 10' \$389.00 - \$1,899.00; box blades 4' - 8' \$199.00 - \$399.00; large selection 3-point equipment. Southland Company, Batesville, MS (601) 563-9428; (601) 326-3630.

**PLEASE HELP SMALL Northern Illinois SBC mission.** Needed new/used overhead projector for teaching Continuing Witness Training, and used VCR for viewing Sunday School Leadership/Discipleship Training video cassettes. Contact Theodore Davis, pastor, 104 Heron, Watseka, Illinois 60970 (815) 432-2828. Contact Ernest Sadler, DOM, Jackson County Baptist Association, (601) 769-7101 for information about the Watseka Mission.



## Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



## Senate rejects 'parochial'

WASHINGTON (ABP) — The U.S. Senate rejected two attempts to include President Bush's plan to channel tax dollars to private and parochial schools in consideration of a major education bill.

The votes signal that the Senate apparently will not go along with the "choice" aspect of Bush's America 2000 plan as part of a major education bill (S. 2). Bush's choice proposal would allow parents to use vouchers to send their children to public and private schools.

In two key actions Jan. 23, the Senate defeated one amendment to the Neighborhood Schools Improvement Act and approved another only after it had been modified to delete provisions that would have allowed the use of public funds for private schools.

By a vote of 57-36, the Senate defeated an amendment sponsored by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, that would have established a school choice demonstration project. The amendment would have authorized \$30 million to carry out a maximum of six demonstration projects providing low-income parents with federal money to help pay for public or private education.

Another amendment, sponsored by Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., attempted to include Bush's plan to authorize grants to establish 535 new, innovative schools across the country. The Cochran amendment was approved 96-0 after Cochran agreed to alter the proposal. One change was that no grants could be used to establish private or sectarian schools.

## Truck Center needs:

Needs for the Truckers and Travelers Welcome Center, I-10, Moss Point: curtains for bedrooms and kitchen, phone, pictures, queen and double-sized bed linens, trash basket, area rugs, mixer, mixer bowls, strainer, biscuit cutter, step stool, blender, food processor, sifter, paper goods, dish cloths, ziploc bags, aluminum foil, saran wrap, big pot, microwave, battery clock, dish soap, Brillo pads, bologna, jelly, syrup, Comet, Vienna sausage, eggs, milk, orange juice, sugar, paper towels, cereal, recliner, card tables, stools for food bar, coffee and coffee supplies, ping pong table, bookshelves . . .

For more information about the welcome center for truckers, and its needs, call the Jackson County Association (769-7101) or call Bob Storie (475-8999).

## SBC cross-stitch pattern, anyone?

I received a letter from Anne Rominger today. She needs help with finding a cross-stitch pattern, so I'm going to print her letter here. Her husband is a chaplain and they are Baptists. Besides, you can tell by her letter that she's the kind of reader I like!

If anyone has this pattern, I'd appreciate your contacting her at the address below.

Dear Mrs. McWilliams:

My husband, Dean, is a U.S. Army chaplain endorsed by the Southern Baptist Convention. He is currently stationed at Fort Rucker, Ala. We are from Gulfport and receive the Baptist Record through our home church, Grace Memorial, in Gulfport. I look forward each week to receiving the paper. It's like a little bit of home that we get each week. Over the years I've come to feel like you are a good friend through reading your column and the articles that you write. "Faces and Places" is my favorite column to read.

I'm looking for something that I hope you can help me with. I love to cross-stitch and I'm looking for a cross-stitch pattern of the Southern Baptist Convention emblem. I've stitched the Chaplain Corps seal and would love to have the Southern Baptist one to hang in my husband's office with it. I realize that this is not exactly the job of an associate editor of a paper but I also know, through your column, that you know many people with many different skills and abilities. I remember reading a while back about your interview with a lady who did crafts and such and since I have exhausted all avenues I know of to find such a pattern I thought I would try you.

Anne Rominger  
58 Endl Avenue  
Ft. Rucker, AL 36362  
(205) 598-4115



## Shepherds live in wool coats

Communities of shepherds live in the mountains of Romania, keeping 6-8 sheep each, living and sleeping in heavy wool coats like the one here. They eat cheese, milk, and whey, which is full of Vitamin E and helps to cure liver disease, according to Cornel Petrassevich, Philadelphia doctor. "Women who rub whey on their faces have beautiful skin . . . From the beginning of Communist rule, the shepherds knew their only hope for survival lay in withdrawal into a simple life in the mountains, near woods where they could hide. They survive, they smile; they are wise men."



# Names in the news



New deacon ordination at Pocahontas Church is pictured as Derrick Milner, third from left, receives ordination certificate from Steve Jordan, pastor. Other active deacons, from left, are Dick Sandidge, David Dockery, Dalton Haggan, former pastor, George Whitfield, and Dalton Dennis.



Strong Hope Church, Wesson, was host to the Copiah-Lincoln BSU activity team, "Mission," who presented the Jan. 26 evening worship service through skits and song. The aim of the 16-member group is to "love the Lord our God and glorify his name," according to its leaders. Future services include a youth revival at Wesson Church, Feb. 28-Mar. 1.

Pictured above are members of "Mission." They are: first row, left to right, Barbara Reynolds, Magee; Malinda Sistrunk, Braxton; Penny King, Wesson, co-leader; Rhoda Patterson, Wesson; Michele Lofton, Magee; second row, Margaret Tynes, Brookhaven; Catherine Cliburn, Monticello; Paige Grant, Mendenhall; Sharon Wyland, Sontag; Wini Martindale, Monticello; Jennifer McWilliams, Magee; third row, Rod Martin, Pascagoula; Chad Yigington, New Hebron; Vic Granger, Wesson; Todd Carey, Silver Creek; and Keith Lee, Silver Creek, co-leader.

Thomas Jamieson of Slayden will return from Germany this June. He is currently serving Immanuel Baptist Church, Wiesbaden, Germany, as youth director and semester missionary through the Baptist Student Union. A recent graduate of Delta State University, Jamieson has served as youth director for Lake Washington First Church, Glen Allen, and as summer missionary to Montana. He is a member of Slayden Church.

The Mississippi College Department of Music will present Cheryl Coker, soprano, in guest recital on Feb. 18, at 8:15 p.m. in Aven Auditorium on campus. Mrs. Coker is an instructor of voice at Millsaps College.

The Mississippi College Department of Music will present Amy Lorraine Barrett of Mendenhall in senior voice recital on Feb. 24, at 3 p.m. in Aven Auditorium on the Mississippi College campus. Admission is free. Miss Barrett, a soprano, is a voice student of Cynthia Coleman, assistant professor of music. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barrett of Mendenhall.

Pine Level Church, Greene County, has called Kenneth Hembree as pastor. He will be ordained Feb. 9, 3:30 p.m. at Pine Level Church. Dan Hembree, First Church, McLain, and father of the candidate will bring the charge to the church, and Billy Murphy, pastor of Faithview Church, Saucier, will bring the charge to the candidate. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall.

## Revival dates

Everett Church, Mendenhall: Feb. 11-14; 7 p.m.; Ricky Moore, Gulfport, evangelist; William A. McWilliams, pastor.

Westwood Church, Meridian: Feb. 16-19; Richard Jackson, North Phoenix Church, Phoenix, Ariz., evangelist; James Francis, West Heights Church, Pontotoc, music; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:45 p.m.; David Mitchell Jr., pastor.

Morgan City Church (Leflore): Feb. 16-19; Bubba Walters, Eastlawn Church, Pascagoula, evangelist; Mrs. Olive Thompson, Morgan City Church, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bobby Moore, pastor.

Holly Bluff (Yazoo): Feb. 16-19; Sammy Brister, Harvest, Ala., evangelist; R. L. and Beth Sigrest, Yazoo City, music evangelists; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Davie S. Guess, pastor.

## Danny Sparks, BSSB schedules workshop for writers next July

Danny Sparks, 39, pastor of Thrasher Church near Booneville, died of a malignancy, Jan. 31. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, two sons, Joshua and Caleb, and daughter, Becky. Sparks had pastored Thrasher Church for six years.

## McAnally, board member, dies

Charles McAnally of Tishomingo Association died Feb. 1. He was a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and served on the Missions and Evangelism Committee. McAnally was a member of First Church, Belmont, and actively supported the mission program of the church.

## Staff changes

Thomas M. Turner has resigned as minister of music of Calvary Church, Pascagoula, after three years of service. He is available for interim or supply work. Kenn Clark is currently serving as interim. George Berger is pastor of Calvary Church.



Graham

Terry Paul Graham has accepted the call as pastor of Poplar Springs Church, Itawamba Association, effective Feb. 2. He holds degrees from the University of Mississippi.

## First, Gautier, will mark its 50th year

First Church, Gautier, will observe its 50th anniversary Sept. 20, 1992. The theme, "Fifty Years Lifting Up the Name of the Lord," has been adopted, and a calendar of events scheduled to precede the anniversary celebration.

On Feb. 15, a church-wide banquet will be held. J. L. Reeves will be recognized, along with his wife, as the first and founding pastor. Reeves will deliver the sermon Sunday, Feb. 16.

Paul Kirke, former pastor, will be special guest preacher Mar. 29; Ernest Myers will be special guest preacher May 17; and a memorial service will be held June 28 for former pastor W. C. Burns. On Aug. 16, John Brock will be the special guest preacher.

The church's anniversary activities will culminate Sept. 20 with a history of the church, pageant, and a dinner at the church.

Billy R. Williams is pastor of First Church, Gautier.



Reeves and Williams

NASHVILLE — True or false? The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board — the world's largest publisher of religious materials — has hundreds of writers in house that provide all the copy for its wealth of magazines, books, and curriculum materials.

If you answered, "true," to that question, you're wrong.

According to senior editorial and curriculum specialist Bob Dean, the Sunday School Board uses approximately 3,000 writers a year — most of whom are not board employees.

"Only a few are professional writers," Dean explained. "Most are people with other jobs. Some are pastors, church staff people, and college or seminary teachers. Others are lay people."

Dean said about 400 write books or curriculum materials, adding all curriculum writers must be Southern Baptists.

So how did these writers get their start? Many, Dean said, were helped by attending the board's annual writers workshop.

The 1992 Writers Workshop will be held July 13-16 at the Church Program

Training Center in downtown Nashville. The workshop leader will be Robert J. Hastings of Springfield, Ill., a free-lance writer and storyteller and former editor of the *Illinois Baptist*.

Hastings is author of the *Broadman* books, "Tinyburg Tales," and "Tinyburg Revisited." His weekly radio broadcast — also called "Tinyburg Tales" — is carried by 60 Christian radio stations.

Hastings himself credits a Sunday School Board-sponsored writers workshop with helping to get his writing career off the ground.

"It was held at Ridgecrest (Baptist Conference Center) in 1953," he remembered.

Sunday School Board editors also will be on hand to meet participants and lead sessions on writing for children, youth, adults, exceptional persons, families, and *Broadman* Press.

For more information about the workshop and/or motel and hotel rates in the Nashville area, contact the Church Program Training Center, P. O. Box 24001, Nashville, Tenn. 37203, telephone (615) 251-2294.

## Time-conscious ministry plan succeeds at Missouri Church

By Rebecca Carr

LIBERTY, Mo. (BP) — Priscilla Cohoon's first encounter with Good Shepherd Ministries at Second Church in Liberty came in the form of a question: "Does your lawn need to be mowed?"

Indeed, Mrs. Cohoon's lawn needed mowing. Her husband was dying with cancer and she had been busy caring for their two young children.

The lawn mowing helped initiate a relationship Mrs. Cohoon described as a "life rope" which carried her through the period surrounding her husband's death last July. In addition to lawn care, Good Shepherd volunteers telephoned the Cohoons each week to offer support and assistance. Church members sat with her husband during his final weeks at home and continued to minister to Mrs. Cohoon following his death.

"Those months were a blur," she recalled, "but they are tied together with the love and compassion of Good Shepherd Ministries."

Good Shepherd Ministries, which began January 1991, involved a commitment by 78 church members and couples to each devote four pre-scheduled days during the year to meet needs within their church family which the staff and deacons could not meet because of time constraints.

During the ministry's first year, its 78 participants made more than 3,900 ministry contacts, including more than 3,000 phone calls, 500 nursing home visits, and 400 "acts of kindness."

"During the program's first year, the response was phenomenal," affirmed George "Dub" Steincross, pastor of Second Church. "Many more volunteered than we ever anticipated."

Volunteers included physicians, attorneys, schoolteachers, college professors, college students, homemakers, and retired people. Most

1900 — There were 100,406 Baptists in 957 churches united in 38 associations and the state convention.

**FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRIES**  
STEEPLES-CROSSES  
WATER HEATERS  
FREE COLORED BROCHURE  
**LITTLE GIANT MANUFACTURING CO.**  
Box 518 / Orange, Texas 77630  
DIAL TOLL FREE 1-800-231-8935

Ask about the energy savings of gas appliances, for now and for years to come.



**Mississippi Valley Gas Company**

Gas gives you more for your money.

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, stained glass, carpet, steeples, lighting, folding doors, theater seats.

**Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery**

Box 501, Fulton, MS. 38843  
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627

**We remodel & paint**

The Land Where Jesus Lived:

**ISRAEL**

March 12-20, 1992

Cost: \$1895 from New Orleans  
Egypt Extension — March 20-26

Cost: \$855

Tour led by Dr. Harry L. Lucenay

A \$250 deposit holds your place.

For a detailed brochure call  
1-800-777-5092



# Just for the Record

Thursday, February 6, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9



First Church, Baldwin, honored its GAs and Acteens on Oct. 6 in a GA/Acteen recognition service entitled "God's Beautiful Bouquet." Pictured, crown and scepter bearers are (front row, left to right) Laura Adams, Hayley Stephens, Zack Phillips, Anna Kate Barnes, Abby Richey, Anna Nelson, Laura Allyson Richey, Amanda Daher, Anna-Lisa Thomas, Shana Lomineck, Kayla Harrison, Andrea Loberg, and Cadley Burns.

GA award recipients include (second row) Jessica Graham, Casey Ryan, Lacey Rutherford, and Paige Rowan; (third row) Jessica Pannell, Landon Rutherford, Mandy Armstrong, Mag-

gie Barnes, Lauren Nelson, Corrie Cutrer, Melissa Long, Carrie Cutrer, Marla Winstead, and Cassie Cutrer.

Acteen award recipients include (fourth row) Blair DeVaughn, Courtney Ryan, Allison Phillips, Ginger Gardner, Lacey Palmer, Hilary Palmer; (fifth row) Kathy Stanford, Christy Barber, Erin Nanney, Alison Comer, Alisha Phillips, Monica Winstead, and Angie Rinehart.

GA leaders are Lisa Swinney, Donna Henry, and Holly Nelson. Acteen leaders are Pat Richey and Beth Barnes.

There will be a Ham Fellowship Meeting Saturday, Feb. 8, beginning at 10 a.m. during the Capital City Ham Fest at 4123 I-55 South.

## Lottie Moon goals met

Pocahontas Church, Jackson, set its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal at \$3,700 and has received \$3,917. This is the largest amount ever given by the church. Mildred Whitfield is WMU director; Mary Jordan, BW president; and Steve Jordan, pastor.

Woodland Hills Church, Jackson set a church goal of \$16,000 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. The amount received was \$18,997.

Terry's Creek Church, Pike Association, went over its goal of \$2,500 for Lottie Moon Offering (2,633.90) in December. Terry's Creek Church gives 21% to the Cooperative Program and 4% to Pike Association missions. The goal for Home Missions is \$2,500.

## AGENCIES

From page 3

be shared equally by all SBC agencies and institutions.

According to the budget plan, 50% of Cooperative Program receipts above the basic budget will be allocated to the agencies for program advance and 50% for approved capital needs.

Although agency and institutional executives presented their appeals to the subcommittee at the two-day meeting, their appeals totaled \$10.4 million more than the 1990-91 year's receipts.

Receiving some attention by subcommittee members was information showing how much each agency and institution received from non-Cooperative Program sources. The report indicated state conventions and alternate funding sources channeled about \$3.5 million, primarily to the two mission boards, the six seminaries, and the Radio and Television Commission.

However, the "direct allocations" to the agencies did not appear to influence the subcommittee's final decision.

Hollinger is director of Baptist Press.

## Kelly to lecture at Mississippi College

Earl Kelly, executive director/treasurer emeritus of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be guest lecturer for the Evangelism Lectures scheduled Feb. 10-12 at Mississippi College.

Kelly will speak in 10 a.m. chapel services in Swor Auditorium of Nelson Hall on Monday and Wednesday. He will also visit various classes in the Department of Bible and Philosophy and will be honored at an invitation-only dinner on Tuesday in the B.C. Rogers Student Center.

The ninth annual Northwest Florida Evangelism Conference is scheduled for Feb. 24-25 at Olive Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla. The event is sponsored by Pensacola Bay Association.

Speakers for the conference include Rick Amato, evangelist, Lincoln Park, Mich.; Bob Pittman, pastor, Memphis, Tenn.; Gary Rivers, pastor, Gadsden, Ala.; Fred Wolfe, pastor, Mobile, Ala.

The adult choir of Beacon Church, Hattiesburg, presented a Christmas cantata and drama with the manger scene Dec. 15. The banners used in the program were made by the women of the church. Keith Manuel is pastor. Jon Kitball is minister of music.

## More legislation introduced

In the Jan. 30 issue of the Baptist Record, an initial list of bills of interest which had been introduced in the legislature was provided. Since that date other bills have been introduced. The following bills should be added to the list given in the Jan. 30 issue.

These bills need the attention and response of concerned Christians. Legislators can be contacted by calling 359-3770 or writing them at Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215.

Addition: HB 452 would set enhanced penalties for drug violations in the presence of a child.

Family: HB 460 would establish the Mississippi Adoption Confidentiality Law.

HB 361 and SB 2325 would prohibit zoning ordinances that prohibit mobile homes anywhere in a city or the county.

HB 393 and HB 480 would allow rape and sex offense victims to have convicted offenders tested for AIDS.

Gambling: SB 2292 would legalize and supposedly regulate video poker devices.

Other: HB 316 would establish the Lobbying Law Reform Act of 1993.

HB 343 and HB 416 would require the recycling of beverage containers.

HB 359 would restrict and regulate the volume of radios in motor vehicles.

HB 481 would require criminal offenders to work 40 hours a week.

SB 2309 would allow nonprofit corporations to limit liability of directors.

— Compiled by Paul Jones, director, and Beth Holmes, consultant, of the Christian Action Commission, MBC.

## Kilmichael Church celebrates centennial

Centennial Day was held Sept. 29 at Kilmichael Church, Kilmichael. The message brought by the pastor, Joe P. Crout, was entitled, "Looking back to see the future." A meal was served in the fellowship hall. An afternoon program was held in the sanctuary. E. F.

Henderson, chairman of centennial committee, gave a brief history of the church and recognized guests. Jack Gunn presented a certificate of recognition for the 100th birthday of the church from the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission.



## Dino in concert

First Baptist Church

506 Jeff Davis Avenue

Long Beach, Ms

Wed. February 12, 1992

7 p.m. - doors open at 6:30 p.m.

A love offering will be taken.

## SCREENFLEX

Sixteen feet of retractable screening on each side of a storage cabinet with marker board.

- sound absorbing panels
- locking casters
- completely portable and versatile
- available in a variety of finishes and colors
- perfect for temporary Sunday School or small group use

Available from Mississippi School Supply Company. Call Patty Self at 948-8600 or 800-222-7698.

## 15 PASSENGER CHURCH VANS

We have the largest selection of 15 passenger church vans in Mississippi - new and used.

DUB HERRING FORD-LINCOLN-MERCURY  
DUB HERRING CHRYSLER-PLYMOUTH-DODGE

Call the Hotline 1-800-776-5497

Ask for DONNIE COUNTS - Fleet Manager, or write to 600 Hwy. 11 South, Picayune, MS 39466

## WOMACK EUROPE — HOLY LAND TOUR

September 14-28, 1992

Escorted by Dr. Fred Womack

Among the stops we will make are the following: Paris, Grindelwald, Lausanne, Lucerne, Zurich (Switzerland); Cairo, Egypt; Tel Aviv, Tiberias, Jerusalem, Masada (Israel) — and points in between. (5 Star hotel accommodations).

The cost of \$3699 (from New Orleans) or \$3563 (from Atlanta) includes round-trip flight, tips, hotel accommodations, and meals (except 2 lunches in Paris).

For more information and a brochure, write:

Dr. Fred G. Womack, 7318 Ahi Drive, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520 — or call 601-255-6032 or 255-3348.

## Join the Celebration

at

Westwood Baptist Church  
February 16-19

Music Evangelist  
James Francis  
Pontotoc, MS



Evangelist  
Richard Jackson  
Phoenix, AR  
February 17-19

Monday night — Liberty Quartet

Services: Sunday — 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.  
Monday - Wednesday — 6:45 p.m.

1224 65th Avenue, Meridian, MS (482-3283)

Bring your lost friends with you!



# Each should commit himself to obey Jesus' words



## LIFE AND WORK

Lola M. Autry  
Matthew 7:13-29

The purpose of this lesson is to help each of us commit ourselves to obey the words of Jesus. Many times we are like a patient who is given a curative medicine by a physician only to fail to carry out his orders. Jesus has given us in the Sermon on the Mount definite orders and definite examples so we may do his will. Even so, we do not always follow through.

False prophets discerned by their fruits (vv. 15-17). Jesus says there are those who are hypocrites. Their lives look good outwardly, but as to true commitment they are all true pretense and sham and worthless. Jesus gives precise ways in which we can know those truly his from the pretenders: you will know them by their fruits. They may be do-gooders, with many words proclaiming allegiance to him, and yet not obey him; not walk with him; not love him beyond themselves; not seek him; not trust him; not serve him; not fear him. These, he proclaims, cannot produce fruit for the kingdom.

Obedience as a test of genuine profession (vv. 19-23). This is a passage of negatives. Jesus says in essence — you talk about me a lot. You claim great things in my name. You boast of all you have done for me, but I do not know you! Why does he not know them? They have not produced

the good fruit that comes only from a committed life of faith and obedience.

Results of obedience to Jesus' words (vv. 24-25). Jesus was a master at creating word pictures. Having grown up in the home of a carpenter he was familiar with design and architecture. He drew on this knowledge. A house MUST have a good base; a good foundation. Only those whose lives were based on the sure foundation of the Son of God could ever hope to stand firm and obedient. The foundation of faith is like a rock that cannot be destroyed by wind and rain. The rock that begets faith is Jesus, and faith begets obedience.

Results of lack of obedience to Jesus' words (vv. 26-27). Recently a woman and her two children, riding a four-wheeler, ventured out onto the frozen waters of the Bering Sea above the Arctic Circle. The ice seemed strong and supportive as they moved along, but suddenly they

approached a place where the thickness of the ice was not sufficient to support their weight — and they drowned. They THOUGHT they were all right, but they had failed to obey the rules of safety. That's what Jesus is teaching: the foundation MUST be there and the rules MUST be obeyed.

What constitutes true obedience? The story is told of a man who was invited by his king for dinner the next day. Receiving no answer the king assumed the man could not come. However the next day the man was there. The king welcomed him by saying in surprise, "I didn't hear from you, so I didn't expect you." The man replied in a soft voice, "The invitation of a king is never to be answered, only obeyed." The invitation of Jesus the King is to a life of eternal salvation and committed service and obedience.

Autry lives in Hickory Flat.

# "Judgment and restoration are coming," says Amos



## BIBLE BOOK

By Charles E. Nestor  
Amos 8:4-6, 11-14; 9:11-15

Amos lived in a difficult time, but he was faithful to the call of God. He preached the truth which people did not want to hear. His final message amplifies the imminent judgment of God and the effects.

I. Warning against social injustice (8:4-6). The merchants of northern Israel were greedy and guilty of building a society on social injustice. Amos visualized the Northern Kingdom coming to an end, as illustrated in his vision of a basket of summer fruit. These verses continue revealing the reason for God's judgment.

The Israelites had a covenant with God and each other to help the poor, the widow, the or-

phans, the stranger, and other disadvantaged people. Instead of helping, these merchants were taking advantage of people. Their actions were the result of greed. They were not observing the periods of worship commanded by God. Their profiting by business was more important. "It is no accident that a violation of the spirit of the sabbath resulted in overt acts of injustice, because the person who will rob God of his day will rob his fellows of their rights" (Broadman Commentary).

It is alarming when we take inventory of our days and observe the manner in which we observe rest and worship. The day set aside for our worship is mostly "business as usual." When we, by choice, omit a time of rest and worship our spiritual life and relationship with God suffers. In the words of Amos, "judgment is coming." These merchants were also cheating the people by false measurement of purchases. They used all kinds of tricks to accomplish their evil deeds. They were true masters at being dishonest with their customers and God condemns such practices. God's design is for buying and selling to be conducted honestly and in respect for the rights and privileges of human life.

II. The certainty of the coming judgment (8:11-14). Amos addresses the response of God to the sins of Israel. He promises their sins will not be forgotten. God's judgment is inevitable and is different from past judgment. There is the promise of an unusual famine. It is not a famine of food, etc., but of hearing the Word of God.

The prophets knew man did not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. The meaning is that we need the presence of God for daily living. Amos has a challenging word to these merchants who think the worship of God is a waste of time. The day is coming when they will search for a word from God and not find it.

This is not a case where God refuses to speak, but that man loses his power to hear. That occurs any time the creature is substituted for the Creator. Their hearts become insensitive to God and they turn to worship of idols. When that happens, there is famine in the land. It is the most severe judgment of all.

III. The promise of restoration (9:11-15). The good news is that God remembers his covenant with David. There is hope because of the grace of God. These verses speak of the grand tomor-

row when the kingdom of David will be restored. Israel will repossess the land that belonged to their nation during David's reign. God's people will again dwell in peace and security. Amos speaks of a remnant which remains after judgment which would come to all nations. Edom was known for hating the Israelites, so the use of this word indicates a miraculous spiritual change which was brought about in the hearts of men through the judgment. There will be believers out of all nations who are converted and become part of God's people.

Prosperity is forecast for the land. There will be such a harvest; it will not be possible to complete it before another crop is ready. God's love is amazing. He is still the same today. His call to us is to live in the holiness to which he has called us.

These closing words of Amos are not just a happy ending to a story. It is here we are to see that in the end God's purpose is accomplished in the earth, and that includes restoring the broken relationships between man and God and the world.

Nestor is pastor, First Church, Bruce.

# Believers must devote themselves to prayers for unity



## UNIFORM

By Bobby Williamson  
John 17:1-26

The central truth of our lesson this week is that we as believers are to be united in Christ. I am convinced today that strife and division in our churches is doing more to hinder the work of God than any other factor.

How might each of us promote unity in our churches? Let's look at our passage from John 17 and see what action we might take to promote unity.

Jesus' prayer for himself (John 17:1-5)

As Jesus approached death, he asked the Father to glorify him so that he might glorify the Father (v. 1). It is a wonderful thing that we hear this prayer uttered from the very lips of Jesus Christ. It is as if we hear Jesus as he says these very words, not just something that we might be reading, but actually hearing. In

his prayer Jesus surely glorifies the Father, and if our Lord and Savior glorifies the Father, how should we approach the Father? We should approach him with honor and praise. When we come together corporately to worship we should praise God, and when we pray, our prayers should be filled with praise. I have found that people who truly praise together have a sweet and cooperative fellowship.

Verse 2 is a wonderful, marvelous verse that once again reveals to us that Jesus Christ has the authority to give eternal life to all who come to know God as revealed through him. There is unity in the person of Jesus Christ.

Whatever differences we might have, as Christians we have one major common interest, Jesus Christ. How can we become so little and petty when we have Christ? If we remember our common bond, and share Jesus with others, unity within our church body will grow. As we study God's role in salvation it should motivate us to give thanks for his saving grace (vv. 6-8).

Jesus' prayer for his disciples (17:6-19)

In these verses it is once again clear that it was the strong desire of Jesus that brothers and sisters in Christ should be united. As we study these verses we should not only be motivated but we should be convicted to pray for one another. How often we find ourselves being critical of our brothers and sisters. If we spent the time in prayer that we spent criticizing one another, God's work would not be hindered in many of our churches as it is today.

Jesus' prayer for all believers (17:20-26)

There are many ways that we can be witnesses. One of these is as a unified body, one is the bond of love. What does your city or community see when it looks at your church?

In this text Jesus prayed that all who would believe in him would be united as a witness for the world. It is refreshing to be a part of and hear of loving, caring churches. These churches have a real witness in their towns. One of the most powerful witnesses for Christ to a lost and dying world is loving harmony among

believers.

How does your church measure up? How do you measure up? The church is being watched very closely by the world in which we live. Is it any wonder that we are having problems reaching our cities and communities for Christ? We must show the world that in Christ there is salvation, and in salvation there is unity. Let's pray for unity in our churches today.

Williamson is pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon.

## Baptist youth world conference will be in Harare, Zimbabwe

McLEAN, VIRGINIA (USA) — Plans are well on their way for the 12th Baptist Youth World Conference, to take place in Harare, Zimbabwe (Africa), from Aug. 11-15, 1993.

The president of the Baptist World Alliance Youth Department, which is sponsoring the major event, Chamunorwa Henry Chiromo, stated that the conference, the first since "Glasgow 1988," will draw 4,000 young people between the ages of 16 and 35. They will gather "to celebrate, to explore, and to apply God's Word and to have intercultural fellowship with one another."

Participants will enjoy a program of fantastic music, drama, dances, and many other creative activities, in addition to Bible teaching and sharing in small groups around the conference theme, "Risking All for Christ . . . Our Only Hope."



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



**The Baptist Children's Village**

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

ACCREDITED

P. O. Box 27,  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242



## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

### MEMORIALS

**Dec. 1, 1991 -  
Dec. 31, 1991**

Mrs. Mildred Magee Grubbs  
Mr. & Mrs. C. G. Cryder  
Mary & George Hammitt  
Mrs. Dot Hammitt Shandera  
Mrs. George Hammitt  
Mrs. Dot Hammitt Shandera  
Louis Hardy  
Ms. Evelyn J. Hardy  
Anna Eleanor Harkins  
Mr. Charles W. Holmes  
Mrs. Beryl Harper  
Mrs. L. E. Green  
Mr. Earl Harrington  
Ladies 2 SS, Galilee BC,  
Gloster  
Mr. Julian Harris  
Mrs. Roy A. Berry  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommie W. Taylor  
Jewell Harrison  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy P.  
Johnson  
Mr. L. V. Harrison  
Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Rivers  
Mrs. Willie E. Hart  
Miss Bennie Hart  
Commander James Hartness  
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Simmons  
Mr. N. C. Hathorn  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy J. Binagar

Mr. A. G. Haven  
Ms. Mamie K. Welch  
Vaiden Baptist Church  
Mrs. Brock Craft  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis K. Dean &  
Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Ellett  
Louie Wright SS, Vaiden BC  
George Hawkins Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Hill  
Mr. Marion Hays  
Mrs. Dennis W. Hays  
Mark Hearn  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy F. Cotton Jr.  
Mr. Sidney J. Hendrix  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth W.  
Statham  
Mr. Clint Herring  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Baine Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. James E.  
Higginbotham  
Mr. & Mrs. G. E. Turner  
Mr. J. C. Herrod  
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Long  
Mrs. Paul Hicks  
Mrs. Frank Williams Jr.  
Mr. Joe Higdon, Jr.  
Mrs. George E. Hart Jr.  
Mrs. Harold Hillebert  
Mr. & Mrs. E. N. Ross Jr.  
Mr. Francis Hinman  
Mr. & Mrs. Yergor Robinson  
Mrs. Katherine Davis Hipp  
Ms. Katherine T. Collins  
Mr. C. W. Hite  
Mr. Bobby Edmonson  
Mr. N. T. Hogan  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill C. Wilson  
Barry Hoggatt  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter L. Catt

Mrs. Eliza Holmes  
Ina Buckley  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy T. Smith  
Mr. Joseph Key Hooks  
Mr. & Mrs. B. M. Hughes  
Gladys Hopkinson  
Mrs. Gertrude C. Ludlow  
Dr. Francis K. Horton  
Ruth SS, Oakhurst BC  
Mr. F. K. Horton  
Mrs. Shirley M. Horton  
Buddy House  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan W.  
Southernland Jr.  
Marion Howell  
Mrs. Irmadine H. Massey  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank H. Massey,  
Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. David H. Massey  
Almeda Hudson  
Mrs. Mildred Pierce  
William Ewell Hudson  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice  
Mrs. Pearl Huff  
Mr. & Mrs. Clark Mashburn  
Mrs. Hulet  
Mr. & Mrs. S. M. Dowdle  
Annette Ingram  
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Little  
Jeffery Ingram  
Mr. & Mrs. James Cameron  
Mr. Willard Ingram  
Mrs. Frances R. Lester  
Latimer Whitson Irby  
Mr. & Mrs. W. Price Toler  
Dr. Braxton Irby Jr. & Katy  
Mrs. James P. Crawford  
Mrs. M. H. Mabry  
Mrs. H. B. West

Mrs. Troy Lee Grissom Ishee  
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Kirk  
Mr. E. W. Permenter  
Mrs. Ivy  
Mr. & Mrs. Harris B. Peyton  
Victor Ivy  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Franklin  
Mr. Fred Jabour  
Mrs. Lucille Warnock  
Mr. Kenneth James  
Mrs. Bobbie Farrar  
Irvin Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Pat H. Gullledge  
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Johnson  
Miss Fay Parker  
Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. E. J. McDill  
Mr. Hoss Johnson  
Mrs. Alyce R. Clark  
Mr. Irvin Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Hayes Branscome  
Mr. & Mrs. W.G. Branscome  
Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Keeton,  
Jr.  
Mrs. Virginia E. Umstead  
Mr. T. I. Johnson  
Ms. Mary Kavanaugh  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl R. Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. John G. Hardy  
Mrs. T. J. Staten  
Mrs. Earl Horton  
Truth Seekers SS, FBC  
Grenada  
Virginia Johnson  
Ruth SS, FBC Tupelo  
Mrs. Mabel R. Johnston  
Mrs. S. B. Garner  
Mrs. Mildred Stamps  
Ora Johnston  
Park Place Baptist Church  
Helen E. Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Little  
Mrs. Betty Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. George Burton  
Mrs. Juanita L. Jones  
Mrs. Norman Moody  
Mrs. R. C. Upton  
Mrs. Kitty Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Broadway  
Mrs. Don C. Templeton  
Mrs. Owen (Helen) Jones  
Mrs. L. D. Sandifer  
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert C. Young  
Richard Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Milfred Jones  
Mrs. Janie Keeshan  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Cosier  
Earl "Buck" Kitchens  
Ms. Rosemary Middleton  
Bruce Knight  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill C. Walker  
Bobby Walker  
Mr. Jack Knight  
Mr. Bobby Edmonson  
Mr. Robert Hollis Knighton  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen J. Smith  
Mr. Donald A. Thompson  
Mrs. Mary Knori  
Mr. & Mrs. W. M. McElroy  
Mrs. June Kuykendall  
Mrs. Thomas Fite Paine  
D. G. Lambert  
Mrs. Jackie Niemeyer  
Mr. & Mrs. Troy Lancaster  
Mr. Norman Reese  
Evelyn Langley  
Mrs. Myra DuBose  
Lloyd Latham  
Graeber Brothers Inc.  
Mr. C. B. Lea, Jr.  
The Robert L. Touchstone  
Family

Mrs. Mary Lee  
Mrs. Ireta Graham  
Mrs. Ollie Prestridge Lee  
Miss Virginia Watkins  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Butler  
David Nathan Legge  
Dr. Rebecca Sue Legge  
Mr. & Mrs. Ira Legge  
Dr. Rebecca Sue Legge  
Mr. Garner Lester  
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Edwards  
Mr. Henry Lewis  
Mrs. Peggy Thornhill  
Mrs. Pam F. White  
Mr. L. E. Lindley  
Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Senter  
Mrs. Ellie Lindsey  
Mr. & Mrs. S. M. Dowdle  
Mr. William W. Littlejohn  
Mrs. George W. Johnston  
James & Iris Livingston  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Livingston  
Mr. Clint Lofton  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold  
Mrs. Edrie Logan  
Mr. Wade Logan  
Mabel Davis Long  
Mrs. R. L. Moseley  
Scott Lossett  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R.  
Ellison  
Mr. P. L. Lovern  
Mrs. Billy French  
Mrs. Ruby Loving  
Bobbie Harding  
Bill Magnan  
Lucille McCormick  
Mr. Karl Luedtke  
Mrs. Opal Osborn  
Annie Lee Lusk  
Ms. Patricia M. Kimble  
Clarence Mackey  
Mrs. Nannie Whitten  
Mrs. Birdie Makamson  
Phillipston Baptist Church  
Mr. David Malone  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank H. Jones  
Ellis Mannon  
Mr. & Mrs. James A. Kidd  
Mrs. B. S. Marler  
Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Senter  
Stella N. Marter  
Graeber Brothers Inc.  
Christopher Martin  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald James Sr.  
Flint Martin  
Mrs. Roberta Graves  
Mr. Bruce Mason  
Ms. Sherry Corley  
Mr. Albert E. Mattox  
Sandi & Steven Fesmire  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack R. Fulton  
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Tibbler  
Mr. Marion Mavis  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore  
Ann Lanelle May  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph J. Cupstid  
Mrs. Speck May  
The Lewis Brewer Family  
Mr. Fairrell M. McAlpin  
The Z. B. McAlpin Family  
Edward McBroom  
Ms. Martha Beavers  
Mr. B. H. McCarty  
Mr. & Mrs. Aven Whittington  
Mr. Jimmy McClellan  
Mrs. Gladys Frederick  
Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Peeples &  
Morgan  
James E. McCloud  
Mr. & Mrs. Norris Wray  
Parsada McCord  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph S. Lyons

Mrs. Bijma McCormick  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Garrett  
Mr. Jerry McCulley  
Mrs. Sara Linton  
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. McDade  
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar J. Garrett  
Mrs. Margaret M. Gully  
Mrs. Bertha McCaskill  
Eugenia M. Therrell  
Willard & J. C. McDade  
Mrs. Margaret M. Gully  
Willard & Clifford McDade &  
Beatrice M. Standard  
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar J. Garrett  
Eugenia M. Therrell  
Edna, Jimmy & Relus  
McDaniel  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan W.  
Southernland Jr.  
Mr. Oliver Preston McDill  
Mr. & Mrs. E. J. McDill  
Mrs. Lorraine Clement  
McElroy  
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil M. Boland  
Mrs. Charles M. Eskridge  
Mr. & Mrs. W. M. Sheppard  
Mr. L. G. McGregor  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Thompson  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Thompson  
Mrs. Martha Ann McLaurin  
Mr. & Mrs. Pat H. Shivers  
Bessie Howell McLendon  
JOY SS, Roseland Park BC  
Mr. D. J. McNeil  
Mrs. Fred E. Kennedy  
Mr. J. Stanley McPhail  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Maloney  
Mrs. Marjorie W. Conn  
Mr. & Mrs. T. E. Hardy  
Mrs. John D. Thomas  
The Robert L. Touchstone  
Family  
Mr. James D. McQuig  
Forest Baptist Church  
Mr. J. D. McWilliams  
Mrs. Louis F. Boteler  
Mr. Freddie Miller  
Mr. & Mrs. Freddie L. Jones  
Mike & Laura Jones  
Mrs. Lyda Miller  
Mrs. Bobbie Farrar  
Mr. Henry Pipes Mills  
Mrs. R. C. Upton  
Mable Davis Mitchell  
Graeber Brothers, Inc.  
Todd Mitchell  
Ms. Gladys Mitchell  
Mr. Henry Hugh Moak  
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Spring  
James Molpus  
Mr. Bobby Edmonson  
Alice Faye Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Cothran  
Ben & Lida Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. F. G. Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore  
Mrs. Elliot Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Gordon  
Dr. Jack Causey  
Mrs. Helen Moore  
Morgan Chapel Baptist  
Church  
Mrs. Mabel (Elliot) Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Albritton  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Marsalis  
Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Barron  
Walter Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore  
Mr. John Morgan  
Forest Baptist Church

Mrs. Doris Morris  
Mrs. V. O. Powell  
Mr. Bogue  
Mr. & Mrs. Harris B. Peyton  
Mr. C. W. Mullen  
Mrs. Fannie Peeples  
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Ballard  
Dora Mut  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Smith  
Mrs. Alice Myrick  
Mr. & Mrs. Reese Snell  
Rickey Nabors  
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Hardin  
Mrs. J. M. Nations  
Mr. & Mrs. Wyndell A.  
Varner  
Paul Douglas Nichols  
Mr. & Mrs. Everett Wilson  
Dr. Will Noblin, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth R.  
Robertson  
India Nunnery  
Mrs. Bessie Herrington  
Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Overby  
Ms. Elizabeth Eckert  
Richard Scott Owen  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Kemp  
Mr. Howard Parker  
Ladies SS #4, Ashland BC  
Mr. Walton Y. Parker  
Mrs. W. Y. Parker  
Thomas E. Pearson  
Mr. & Mrs. Lary Bonds  
Trip Peebles  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Peebles  
Mrs. Doty Penn  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray W. Penn  
Mrs. Martha Ann Perkins  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommie W. Taylor  
Mr. George Pittman  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Miller  
Mr. Roy Polk  
Mrs. Roy Polk  
Elanore Porter  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Y. Duell  
Mrs. W. M. Porter & Family  
Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Parman  
Mr. V. O. Powell  
Mrs. V. O. Powell  
Winnie Powell  
Mr. & Mrs. James Reynolds  
Mrs. Meb Prather  
Mr. Eric Donahoe  
Mr. Robert C. Pratt  
Mrs. Alyce R. Clark  
Mr. & Mrs. George E. Hart  
Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Senter  
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Thomas  
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Evans  
Mr. Sam Quimby, Jr.  
Miss Ethel McCarty  
Mrs. Mary Eleanor M. Randall  
Ruth SS, FBC Eupora  
Mr. C. F. Record, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Daughdrill  
Vida Reedy  
Mr. Bobby Edmonson  
Alva Reeves  
Mrs. Dimple & Tally  
Fortenberry  
Harvey Rester  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph J. Cupstid  
Mrs. W. E. Reynolds, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Stephenson  
Elneo M. Reynolds  
Mrs. Nannie Whitten  
Mr. Bert Richardson  
Mrs. Fern L. Richardson

**Pictured is Mr. Henry Holman (right) of Jitney Jungle Stores giving keys to Executive Director, Rev. Ronny Robinson. Jitney Jungle and Mr. Holman donated to The Baptist Children's Village a 1985 Chevrolet Cargo Van.**



# Help!

There is immediate need for mature, Christian couples and ladies, age 30 to 60 years, to serve as child care worker on our residential child care staff. Applicants must be in good physical and emotional health, prepared to accept 24-hour per day residential assignment with children.

- \*No previous experience required — we will train
- \*Adequate cash salary; room and board furnished
- \*Excellent insurance and retirement program
- \*Interesting opportunity for Vocational Christian service

For further details contact:  
**Henry M. Glaze**  
922-2242

**The Baptist Children's Village**  
P. O. Box 27  
Clinton, Mississippi 39060-0027  
EOE



(To be continued)



# capsules

**'SITE 1992' PROGRAM ANNOUNCED: RUSCHLIKON, SWITZERLAND** — The 14th annual Summer Institute of Theological Education (SITE) will be conducted on the campus of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland June 6-26, 1992. The program is designed to offer a continuing education opportunity for pastors and lay leaders from the Baptist unions in Central and Eastern Europe, but enrollment is open to students from other European Baptist unions and elsewhere. SITE director, Robert Frykholm expects 40 students. This summer's teachers will be William Hendricks, professor of Christian theology at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; Earl Martin, professor of practical theology and director of the Institute for Mission and Evangelism at the Baptist Theological Seminary of Ruschlikon; and Blasco Ramirez, a Baptist pastor and teacher serving in Rome, Italy. Julie Abernathy, Richardson, Tex., and Loretta Reynolds of Ruschlikon, will teach intermediate and advanced English courses.

**MEN'S WORLDWIDE DAY OF WITNESS AND PRAYER SET FOR APRIL 25: McLEAN, Va.** — Baptist men in thousands of churches around the world will celebrate again this year the Baptist Men's Worldwide Day of Witness and Prayer. The day, the fourth Saturday of April (April 25, 1992), will be characterized by meetings for prayer and fellowship, followed by intensive efforts to win other men to Christ. The Men's Department of the Baptist World Alliance sponsors the event each year. A goal of \$150,000 has been set for the special offering which will be collected that day during the meetings.

For information about how to take part in the "Prayer Heard Around the World," the special prayer-link feature of the day, contact the Baptist World Alliance headquarters in McLean, Virginia. — EBPS

**DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING, FAMILY MINISTRY SUMMER CONFERENCES SET: NASHVILLE** — Discipleship Training Leadership Conferences will be held at Glorieta (N.M.) July 4-10, and Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Centers, July 18-24. Ralph Langley, pastor emeritus of First Church of Huntsville, Ala., will preach at the Glorieta conference, and Bill Stephens of the Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training Department, will lead daily doctrine study sessions. Darrell Robinson, director of evangelism for the Home Mission Board, will preach at the Ridgecrest conference. David Dockery, an editor in the board's Bibles and books department and author of "The Doctrine of the Bible," the 1992 Baptist Doctrine Study textbook, will lead the doctrine study at Ridgecrest.

**BAPTIST YOUTH PRAYER DAY SET FOR JUNE 14, 1992: McLEAN, Va.** — The date for the Youth World Day of Prayer, sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance Youth Department, has been set for June 14. On that day World Baptist youth will meet in churches and in many other places where youth congregate to pray specifically for the troubled youth of today, many of whom are fighting for survival because of war, famine, disaster, AIDS and other fatal diseases, and extreme poverty.

Baptist youth in prayer will likewise pray for the 12th Baptist Youth World Conference, to be held in Zimbabwe, Africa, from Aug. 11-15, 1993.

For further information, contact the Youth Department, Baptist World Alliance, 6733 Curran Street, McLean, Virginia 22101-3804. — EBPS

**NEVADA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS MEACHAM AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)** — David Meacham, director of missions for the Las Vegas area Southern Nevada Baptist Association, has been recommended as executive director of the Nevada Baptist Convention. The convention's executive director search committee unanimously selected Meacham, 46, in a Jan. 14 meeting as its nominee to succeed Ernest B. Myers, Nevada's current executive director who has announced his retirement March 15.

**WINNINGHAMS TO LEAVE MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN WORK: ROCHESTER, Minn. (BP)** — Otha Winningham has announced his retirement as executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention, effective April 1, 1993. His wife, Louise, also has announced her resignation as editor of The Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist, effective July 1, 1992. The Winninghams made their announcements during the Jan. 24-25 meeting of the convention's 28-member executive board in Rochester. The convention encompasses 13,000-plus members in 90 churches and 32 chapels in the two states. Winningham, 60, has led Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptists since July 1975. Mrs. Winningham, 59, has been volunteer editor of the convention's newspaper since 1976. She was Woman's Missionary Union director for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana from 1959-66 and WMU director for the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey from 1973-75. She grew up in Knoxville, Tenn., graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and earned the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

**CONFERENCE TO HELP EDUCATORS SHARE PERSONAL FAITH IN CHRIST: NASHVILLE, Tenn.** — Nearly 1,000 faculty members and administrators from 71 Southern Baptist colleges and schools are expected to attend the National Conference on Integrating Faith and Discipline June 22-24, 1992, at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. The conference is the capstone of a five-year training emphasis on integrating personal faith and academic disciplines on Southern Baptist campuses and is sponsored by the Education Commission, Southern Baptist Convention, and the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

## Romanians say they did not vote for defunding

By Mike Creswell & Stanley Crabb

**BUCHAREST, Romania (BP)** — The president of Romanian Baptists will neither confirm nor deny whether his union's General Council actually agreed last November that Foreign Mission Board trustees should cut funds to the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

But several members of the General Council now confirm news reports circulating in Europe and the United States that they neither approved nor discussed the defunding and that no vote was taken.

Romanian Baptist President Vasile Talos declined specifically to confirm or deny in a Jan. 24 Baptist Press telephone interview that the 51-member General Council approved the contents of a controversial letter he and Nic Gheorghita sent to the Foreign Mission Board. Talos, an attorney, said he would have to check with Gheorghita, the union's general secretary, and others to reconstruct what happened.

But Gheorghita, interviewed earlier by Associated Baptist Press while on

a trip in the United States, said no vote was taken by the council but that the letter was justified. "Everyone was agreed and no one said 'no,'" ABP quoted him as saying. "When there is no argument, there is no reason to vote."

A group of Baptist pastors, some of whom are General Council members, confronted Talos Jan. 23 and 24 in Bucharest about the letter and forced him to admit it did not reflect discussion the General Council held about Ruschlikon on Nov. 26, according to the president of the Baptist Theological Institute in Bucharest, Vasile Talpos. (Talos should not be confused with Talos. They have the same first name and their last names vary only one letter in spelling.)

Creswell and Crabb write for FMB.

**1842** — The first recorded Sunday School in the State was reported by Palestine Church in Hinds County. The Convention resolved in the same year: "That it is the duty of lay members in every city, town, and neighborhood to establish Sabbath Schools..."

## County can't own park with religious statues

By Larry Chesser

**WASHINGTON (ABP)** — The U.S. Supreme Court declined to review an appeals-court ruling that a California county's ownership of a park containing Christian statues violates the state's constitution.

The ruling will prohibit San Bernardino County from owning and maintaining the 3.5-acre Antone Martin Memorial Park, which contains statues depicting events in the life of Christ.

A federal district court earlier had ruled that the county's involvement did not violate the establishment clause of the U.S. Constitution. But the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals later reversed that decision and was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, which refused to hear the case.

The case originated when five San Bernardino County residents charged in a lawsuit that the county's ownership of the park violated the establishment clause, as well as state constitutional provisions. The park contains 36 immovable concrete statues and tableaux weighing from four to 125 tons. The park was donated to the county in 1961, and the county has since maintained it at an annual cost of about \$5,500.

The county originally dedicated the facility as Desert Christ Park and advertised the facility as a "World Famous Theme Park... depicting the life of Christ."

The district court viewed the statues as artistic works of aesthetic, cultural and historical value, but the appeals court characterized the statues as religious symbols. The appeals court noted that five of the six witnesses at the trial "perceived a religious message when they visited the park."

The case is Korean United Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles v. Presbytery of the Pacific (91-879). Chesser is staff writer for BJCPA.

**1888** — The women's work in the church was organized on a southwide basis as the Woman's Missionary Union. Mississippi was one of the first states to approve the new organization. Mrs. J. L. (Toy) Johnson was selected as the first president of the WMU.

## "No vote — but consensus"

**RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)** — Vasile Talos, president of the Romanian Baptist Union, acknowledged Jan. 27 that the union's general council did not vote to endorse the Foreign Mission Board's controversial defunding of a Swiss seminary.

However, Talos insists the council discussed the FMB's elimination of \$365,000 to the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon and "accepted through consensus this decision."

Talos' explanation, contained in a Jan. 27 letter to FMB leaders, was sent after several Romanian Baptist pastors disputed claims by Talos and Nic Gheorghita, the union's general secretary, that the general council approved the FMB action, taken in October and reaffirmed in December.

Talos and Gheorghita made the assertions in a Dec. 10 letter to FMB leaders, saying the general council "agreed to this (FMB) decision" at a Nov. 26 meeting and decrying liberal teaching at Ruschlikon. FMB trustees said the letter demonstrated Romanian Baptist support for their action.

In a Jan. 22 interview with ABP, Gheorghita also denied a vote was taken.

## Seminary prof claims Ruschlikon charges valid

By Herb Hollinger

**WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)** — Questions raised by Foreign Mission Board trustees about Ruschlikon seminary professors' beliefs in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ have validity, according to a Southeastern Seminary professor.

R. Philip Roberts, associate professor of evangelism and church growth at the Wake Forest, N.C., seminary, furnished copies to Baptist Press of letters written by Ruschlikon professors "to demonstrate that this material exists." Roberts referred to recent press accounts about California FMB trustee Ron Wilson who said in a letter to the board's chairman he was concerned about the seminary's teaching on the virgin birth.

Ruschlikon officials, however, say the matter was settled long ago and the virgin birth is both believed and taught at the Swiss seminary.

According to Roberts, letters written by senior Ruschlikon faculty members, concerning a German Baptist seminary professor who was relieved of his position in 1985 because of his teachings on the virgin birth, "reveal to all Baptists the nature of Ruschlikon's response."

A position paper on the firing of Hamburg seminary president and professor Eduard Schutz, written Oct. 22, 1985, and signed by Ruschlikon's Thorwald Lorenzen, professor of systematic theology and ethics, Hans H. Mallau, Old Testament and Hebrew professor, and Gunter Wagner, New Testament professor, argues for Schutz' position about the virgin birth.

Schutz was charged with downplaying the significance of the virgin birth, according to the paper.

"Since 25 out of 27 books of the New Testament arrive at their christological statements without referring to the virgin birth, then it follows therefrom that a confession of the virgin birth is after all not denied (or challenged) when one deduces on the basis of Scripture that it (the virgin birth) contributes nothing to a right understanding of Christ. Its theological meaning (significance) must be sought at a less central place

in Christian teaching," the professors argue in the paper.

"With reference to the Scripture, one argues in a way that would reject even the apostle Paul himself as seminary director in Hamburg; because he does not teach the virgin birth — like all New Testament authors except for Matthew and Luke — he is no example for the sheep."

"What a shame! Paul and John could caution (instruct) beginning and veteran preachers of the fact that for them birth from the Spirit and Sonship of God are not dependent on a declaration of virgin birth."

In response, Jo Ann Hopper, wife of Ruschlikon President John David Hopper, said, "We believe in the virgin birth and we teach it at Ruschlikon. Dr. Wiard Popkes, chairman of our board, responded to the erroneous charge about the three professors in his recent open letter."

Hollinger is director of Baptist Press.

Baptist Record

005-DTM  
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SD 00  
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401  
NASHVILLE TN 37203

February 6, 1992

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205